

Iran to choose Khomeini's successor

NEW YORK (R) — Iran's President Ali Khamenei said an assembly of experts would soon choose a council of three or five members to succeed Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, according to an interview published Saturday in Newsweek magazine. "The assembly of experts should have met already. They will choose a council, which will consist of three or five people," Mr. Khamenei was quoted as saying. The Iranian leader also hinted that the Tehran government would accept Soviet weapons under the proper circumstances, Newsweek said. Asked about such arms, President Khamenei said: "the purchase of military arms and equipment is not military assistance."

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Socialists put off Caracas meeting

CARACAS, Venezuela (A.P.) — A Socialist International meeting scheduled for this month in Caracas has been postponed until members decide whether the Nicaraguan Sandinistas, among others, will be invited, an official of Venezuela's Social Democratic Party said Saturday. Enrique Tejera Paris, head of the department of international affairs of Accion Democratica, confirmed that Accion Democratica had requested the postponement, which was announced from Socialist International President Willy Brandt's office, and said the question of Nicaragua's attendance was "one of the reasons."

Mzali to visit Gulf

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali will visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait in the second half of February, it was officially announced in Tunis Saturday.

Iraqi forces kill 376 Iranians

BEIRUT (R) — Iraqi forces killed 376 Iranians in fighting in the Gulf war over the past 24 hours, the Iraqi News Agency said Saturday night. Quoting a military communiqué, it said the casualties included 184 killed in the Bostan area of Iraq's Khuzestan province, where the Iraqis began an offensive last weekend. It added that 148 Iranians were killed in action in Susangerd province. Iraqi losses were put at 44 dead.

King Hassan, Chatti confer on Jerusalem

RABAT (R) — Habib Chatti, secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organisation, discussed the question of Jerusalem and the next Islamic summit conference when he conferred in Marrakesh Saturday with King Hassan of Morocco, the Moroccan news agency MAP reported.

Libya concerned with Moroccan move

BEIRUT (R) — Libya expressed concern Saturday lest Morocco should grant the United States military facilities, the Libyan news agency JANA said. The Libyan foreign liaison secretariat (ministry) called in the Moroccan ambassador and asked for clarification of reports to this effect, JANA said. U.S. secretary of State Alexander Haig said in Morocco on Friday that the two countries would begin talks soon aimed at making emergency transit facilities available to American forces.

No signs of protests in Poland

WARSAW (R) — Poland Saturday entered its third month of martial law but there were no signs of protest in Warsaw despite rumors of possible demonstrations. Police and army street patrols were more frequently seen than in recent days and checks on cars and pedestrians in the capital seemed to have been tightened. Troops armed with sub-machineguns guarded approaches to victory square, a favourite rallying place for demonstrations in the past. In a Polish court Saturday, former diplomat Bogdan Walewski was jailed for 25 years after being convicted of spying for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). A military prosecutor had demanded the death penalty for Walewski, who served at Poland's embassies in Moscow and the United Nations.

Iran arrests Khomeini's opponents

BEIRUT (A.P.) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime has arrested more than 25 opponents in a continuing crackdown on underground guerrillas, Tehran Radio reported Saturday. The radio said the leaders of the three-man central committee of the minor leftist group called "The Slogan of the Oppressed" were recently arrested together with 25 other members and nine of their hideouts discovered. The broadcast said Islamic revolutionary guardsmen loyal to Khomeini confiscated a large quantity of arms and discovered several of the group's supply bases, including residential houses, shops and gardens.

Spanish Republican leader dies at 83

PARIS (A.P.) — Fernando Valera Aparicio, the last president of the Spanish Republican government in exile, died Saturday following a long illness, family members said he was 83. Valera Aparicio, who had been ill for about three years, entered Cocin Hospital on Friday, where he had been treated three weeks earlier, a family spokesman said.

Arabs urge shift in U.S. policies towards Israel

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers meeting here Saturday condemned the United States for its diplomatic support of last December's Israeli annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. But the special meeting of the Arab League council failed to endorse Syrian demands for drastic economic sanctions against the U.S.

The special session was requested by Syria after Washington last month vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for voluntary sanctions against Israel for annexing the territory which it has occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The ministers condemned U.S. policy in the Middle East, saying it was hostile to Arab interests, and urged the Washington government to end all military and financial assistance to Israel which would allow it to perpetuate its occupation of Arab territories.

They also said that the attitude of Japan and some European states which did not support Arab resolutions at the U.N. could have negative effects on their relations with the Arab World.

Earlier this month, Japan and all major West European states—except Greece—voted against a U.N. General Assembly resolution calling on all member states to cease all dealings with Israel.

They feared it would lead to Israel's suspension from the world body—an objective which Saturday's meeting said the Arab League would campaign for.

The meeting also decided to set up a six-member ministerial committee to "assess political and economic links between Arab states and those states which support Israel in order to review these links in the light of their position towards the Arab rights."

The committee, made up of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Algeria, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), will report to the next Arab summit meeting, due to take place in Morocco later this year.

Addressing the Arab foreign ministers' meeting Saturday morning, Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights "constitutes another step in a long chain of acts of aggression on Arab countries, and another aspect of expansionist designs at the expense of Arab lands and rights which started in 1948."

"Had it not been for the deteriorating Arab situation, Israel would not have found the opportunity to take steps towards implementing its plans in the region, most recent of which was the Golan annexation," Mr. Qasem said.

"Jordan has often warned of the dangers inherent in a lack of concerted efforts and of Arab states' failure to realise the common danger threatening them all," he added.

Mr. Qasem stressed that Jordan has always called for strengthening Arab solidarity, and urged Arab states "to work for joint action through mobilising their potentials in the nation's higher interest, and through building up intrinsic strength that would safeguard Arab rights, repel aggression and foil the enemy's designs."

During his stay here, the defence secretary had talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The Defence Department "would consider" recommendations of the Jordanian-American Joint Military Commission, Mr. Weinberger said, but indicated that he—as defence secretary—does not make his country's foreign policy.

"We would just discuss the military needs and necessity, and present those to the proper people in Washington, and discussions with them would take place," he said.

Mr. Weinberger brushed aside Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement Friday that any sale of weapons to Jordan would be a direct threat to the security of Israel. "I have no feeling that matters of that kind would do anything more than strengthen a good friend in this area."

He said he would go back home "with a very favourable impression of the strength of Jordan, the effectiveness of His Majesty and the warmth of the relationships that exist between the two countries."

Mr. Weinberger, who appeared to stress that the United States needed to have strong relations with countries in the Middle East other than Israel, said he emerged from the tour of the three Arab countries with "a great understanding of the problems of the region."

"I've also encountered very warm feelings for the United States and of the importance of maintaining peace in this essential region," he added.

Mr. Weinberger arrived later in Munich, West Germany, for a brief stopover on his way home to Washington.

Asked if he had offered military assistance to Bahrain, which he visited last month, King Hussein said "yes it is correct and it is a duty."

"Jordan is prepared and will not hesitate to stand by its sisters any time they are subjected to any aggression," he said.

The King said "the Iranian menace of sowing sedition and trying to expand at the expense of the Arab Nation is a real one, for all of us."

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U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker stand to attention as the national anthems of Jordan and the USA are played during a departure ceremony Saturday for Mr. Weinberger at Amman Airport. (Petra photo)

Weinberger leaves with a 'favourable impression of Jordan's strength'

By Maaz D. Shukayr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger said Saturday his talks here dealt with "some of the needs of Jordan," but the Jordanians made "no formal requests" for American military assistance.

He was speaking to reporters at Amman Airport at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan—the last leg of a nine-day tour which also took him to Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Mr. Weinberger said he only had "preliminary discussions" on American arms supplies to Jordan, but "there are no formal requests of any kind pending."

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King declares Jordan has nothing to do with troubles in Syria

'We will do our utmost to support Iraq'

KUWAIT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein was Saturday quoted as saying that anti-government troubles in Syria arose from domestic reasons, and that Jordan does not accept interference in its own affairs from any source.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Ra'i Al Aam, the King also disclosed that Jordan, which has ordered a Jordanian volunteer force to help Iraq in its war with Iran, had offered military aid to Bahrain after the Gulf Arab state foiled an Iranian-backed coup attempt last December.

The King accused Iran's fundamentalist regime of trying to expand at the expense of the Arabs and sowing sedition amongst them.

He again denied Syrian charges that Jordan was aiding and harbouring Muslim extremists blamed by Syria for violent attacks in recent years aimed at toppling the government of President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus.

The troubles in Syria "are the result of internal circumstances and they (Syrian leaders) know them," the King said.

The major reason for deteriorating Jordanian-Syrian relations was Jordan's backing for Iraq in the 17-month-old Gulf war and Syrian support for Iran, he said.

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also see divisions among Arab states. The Lebanese tragedy has its own adverse effects on Jerusalem, on the Middle East issue and on the Arab stand. If things are to continue in this manner, they are bound to cause concern," he added.

"It would be most helpful if the Arabs were to meet and discuss the formation of an Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon for a fixed period. Such a force should represent the Arab Nation, and not only the country, and it should withdraw from Lebanon when the causes of its presence in that country have been removed," the King said.

King Hussein said that "we sincerely hope that Egypt which has a significant role and historic importance in the Arab World will soon alter its old behaviours and rejoin Arab ranks."

In reply to a question on whether Syria will accept Saudi Prince Fahd's eight-point peace plan, King Hussein said: "I do not really know, but perhaps the Syrian leadership can answer this question. As to the peace plan itself, I would rather call it pan-Arab peace plan because its provisions have actually been agreed on at the Fez summit conference. We considered the proposal as one based on U.N. Security Council and Arab summit resolutions which call for the achievement of a just and honourable peace in this part of the world."

"We felt that the proposal, by itself, constitutes a springboard for presenting the Arab stand before the world. What made us believe, more in the proposal was Israel's vehement attacks on its provisions and the fact that it was accepted by other nations around the world. These have prompted us to believe that this is the most feasible proposal acceptable to the majority of Arabs. This peace plan will, however, be discussed at future Arab summit," the King added.

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He dismissed in Saturday's interview Syrian and Libyan charges that Jordan in forming the force was squandering Arab energies that should be reserved for the fight against Israel.

"The battle is the same whether here (in Jordan) or there at the eastern gate of the Arab homeland," he said.

King Hussein recalled Iraq's national stands, and its participation in the 1948, 1967, and 1973 wars in Sinai, the Golan, Jordan and Palestine.

In reply to a question on whether there were any tacit threats or U.S. objections to the formation of the all-volunteer Jordanian force, King Hussein said: "We do not accept any interference in our own affairs from any source. No pressure whatsoever has been exerted on Jordan to dissuade it from its course because the U.S. has no right to do that nor shall we accept such interference from that country or any other!"

On whether he supports the idea of withdrawing Syrian forces from Lebanon, the King said "should the present state of affairs in Lebanon continue, all the keys will be placed in the hands of Arab enemies...thus allowing them to achieve their aims and targets against the Arab Nation and the Palestine cause."

"At the first Arab summit, I warned against the dangers threatening South Lebanon and drew the Arab leaders' attention to Israel's expansionist designs in Lebanon and in the sources of the Jordan River," the King said.

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NATIONAL

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Non-Jordanian engineers sign up

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 276 non-Jordanian engineers have been registered with the Jordanian Engineers Association after due consultations between the association and the Ministry of Labour, a ministry spokesman announced here Saturday. Before this process started, the association had only 72 registered non-Jordanian engineers. The ministry said that thanks to consultation and cooperation with the association, Jordanian engineers now form 50 per cent of engineers employed by foreign firms in the country.

Typhoid-bearing well sealed

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Zarqa District health directorate has closed a water well belonging to Ramadan Abdul Wahed in Zarqa after laboratory tests proved that the water drawn from the well, used in watering vegetables, could cause typhoid fever. Al Ra'i newspaper reported Saturday. The directorate has decided to destroy all the vegetables watered from this well, the paper said.

Tawjihi results due today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has completed the process of preparing the results of the mid-year session of the General Secondary Certificate (tawjihi) examinations. A ministry spokesman said that students will be given the results by noon Sunday.

Engineers association to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Engineers Association will hold a general meeting here next Friday to hear an annual report on the activities of the association's council. An association spokesman said that the engineers will meet at the Professional Associations Complex on Feb. 26 to elect a new association board and president. Six candidates are running for president, and 23 others are running for board membership.

Algerian education team confers

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Algerian educational delegation conferred here Saturday with Dr. Izzat Jaradat, director of education at the Ministry of Education. Delegation members were briefed during the meeting on Jordan's educational policy and the ministry's administrative systems. The delegation is paying a visit to Jordan with the purpose of promoting Jordanian-Algerian educational cooperation.

Children's art exhibit set

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education will hold an art exhibition at the end of March to mark Jordan's National Day of the Child. The seven educational directorates around the country will all take part in the exhibition, by displaying paintings done by elementary school children. A Ministry spokesman said that the pictures are to be made with water-colours and pastels, and the best works will receive prizes.

Danish university delegation visits

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from Denmark's "open university" called Saturday at the University of Jordan, where it toured various faculties and saw a documentary on the university's development. The 20-member delegation was also briefed on the university's programmes and teaching methods. The delegation arrived here Friday for a four-week visit to Jordan, during which its members will tour archaeological sites and cultural centres.

Team due Baghdad for customs talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A two member delegation from the Ministry of Finance and Customs will leave for Baghdad next Saturday for talks on cooperation in customs-related matters between Iraq and Jordan. Under-Secretary Yassin Al Kayed said that the talks are designed to increase bilateral cooperation in customs affairs. The delegation will also look into Iraqi customs systems, he added.

Jordan Exhibition 1982 opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar opened on Saturday at the Palace of Culture in Al Hussein Youth City Jordan Exhibition 1982. On display for six days are 50 pieces of art work by 35 Jordanian artists, depicting natural scenes and the Jordanian environment. After its Amman showing, the exhibition will travel to different governorates.

Mafrak villages get more phones

MAFRAO (Petra) — Work on expanding telephone networks for the towns of Sabha and Subhiyeh in Mafrak District started Saturday. A spokesman for the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) said that the project is designed to raise to 200 lines the present network's capacity. The TCC also started work Saturday on a project to increase to 50 lines telephone networks in the towns of Amrah and Umeireh, also in Mafrak District.

Interior team prepares for meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Interior Ministry says it has prepared a working paper to be submitted to the council of Arab Interior ministers at its meeting to open in Riyadh on Feb. 22. The meeting, organised by the Saudi Arabian government, will re-examine the council's bylaws and review proposals on the council's statutes.

Management consultancy seminar starts

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week management consultancy seminar opened at the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) here Saturday. Fifteen delegates from 12 Arab states are attending the seminar, during which subjects connected with the process of holding consultations, their concept and purpose, among other related matters, will be discussed. AOAS Director General Abdullah Al-Zurfi made a speech at the opening session, as did Faraj Alwani and Dr. Ammar Muhoush, both AOAS experts.

Literacy teachers get course

IRBID (Petra) — A three-day course for men and women teachers employed at literacy centres in Irbid Governorate opened here Saturday. Taking part in the course are 120 teachers, who will be oriented on subjects related to literacy problems and ways to deal with illiterate adults at their centres.

Sound and light show planned to illuminate hills of Petra

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism will carry out a sound and light project for the ancient city of Petra similar to that carried out in Jerash, Director General of Tourism Michael Hamarneh announced here on Saturday.

He said the project will be implemented once the various tourist facilities and public utilities at Petra are completed. At present a hotel at the site and a housing project for the Bedouin tribe of bedouins, now living in Petra's caves, are being carried out.

Mr. Hamarneh told the Jordan Times the Jerash sound and light spectacular, installed by the Dutch electronics firm Philips, will be handed over on March 7. All on-site electrical and mechanical work is completed, he said, and the sound track has been recorded. The coordination of the audio portion of the show with the light display comprises the bulk of

the work remaining.

The show, which cost a total of almost JD 331,000 to install, will premier in mid-May, Mr. Hamarneh said. He explained that since the show is an outdoor affair, weather conditions must be mild before it can be put on for the public.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Tourism announced Saturday that it will open a resthouse at Wadi Rumm by the end of next month. The resthouse will offer services to tourists visiting the Wadi Rumm region.

Massive cigarette smuggling attempt foiled at Ramtha

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Jordanian authorities Saturday thwarted an attempt to smuggle 22,000 cartons of foreign-made cigarettes into Jordan through the border post here.

The contraband was hidden inside a refrigerator truck used for transporting vegetables and fruits between Jordan and neighbouring Arab countries.

According to Ministry of Finance and Customs Under-Secretary Yassin Al Kayed, the smuggled cigarettes have been confiscated, and the truck's driver will be prosecuted.



Michael Hamarneh

Soviet workers visit labour organisations

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of Soviet construction workers called Saturday at the Ministry of Labour, the Social Security Corporation and the Vocational Training Corporation, and was briefed on those institutions' activities and programmes.

Labour Minister Jawad Al Anani discussed with the delegation cooperation in labour-related matters between Jordan and the Soviet Union. He also talked about the condition of Arab labourers in the occupied Arab territories, and Israel's oppressive measures against labour unions there.

The delegation, which arrived here last week, is on a week-long visit to Jordan.

Asfour to Islamabad meeting on Islamic industrialisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour left for Pakistan on Friday evening for a three-day meeting, to open in Islamabad on Sunday, will discuss modes of industrial development in Islamic countries and explore the possibility of joint industrial ventures among these countries.

Iraqi education team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An Iraqi educational delegation arrived here on Saturday for a five-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation is led by Dr. Bahjat Kamel, director general of cultural relations at the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education. It will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Education here, and sign an agreement on bilateral cooperation in educational affairs.

Meanwhile, University of Jordan Vice President Mahmoud Al Samra opened at the University hall on Saturday an Iraqi book exhibition. On display for seven days are collections of books on political, economic, historical and literary subjects, in addition to magazines and other Iraqi publications.

The opening ceremony was attended by university deans, staff members and students.

Seminar to discuss accounts, financial analysis, project study

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Administration Institute will open a seminar on accountancy, financial analysis and the study of projects on Feb. 20, Al Ra'i newspaper reported on Saturday. It quoted institute Principal Mohammad Mallalah as saying that the participants in the seminar will discuss project feasibility studies and their planning, organisation and assessment, in relation to decisions on investment ventures.

Mr. Mallalah added that the seminar aims at providing the participants with the ability to use sci-



Walid Asfour



Prime Minister Mudar Badran presides over a meeting of sports association leaders at the Prime Ministry Saturday (Petra photo)

Bankers discuss syndicated loans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Bankers Association (JBA) held a seminar here Saturday to discuss the importance of syndicated loans. The main speaker at the seminar was Association President Abdullah Al Maliki, who underlined in a speech Jordanian banks' increasing interest in the subject of syndicated loans.

Over the past few years 30 such loans in Jordanian dinars, worth JD 70 million were concluded in the country, he said.

Subjects pertaining to syndicated loans in the Eurodollar market, and the advantages of such loans, were discussed at the seminar.

University team due in Khartoum

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-man delegation from the University of Jordan left for Khartoum on Saturday to take part in a week-long conference on irrigation in the Arab World, due to open on Sunday.

The conference will discuss several research projects pertaining to irrigation and ways of developing irrigation methods in the Arab World, as well as increasing cooperation in agriculture-related affairs among Arab states.

Central bank governors' meet put off — Nabulsi

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi returned here on Friday after a four-day tour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait.

He said that the 24th conference of central bank governors in the Arab World, originally scheduled for March, has been put off until April of this year, so that it can coincide with a meeting of Arab Monetary Fund governors. Both meetings will be held in Kuwait, Dr. Nabulsi said.

During his visit to the UAE, Dr. Nabulsi discussed with the Arab Monetary Fund's board subjects pertaining to the forthcoming meetings.

Red Crescent chief leaves for meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian National Red Crescent Society President Ahmad Abu Qoura left for Geneva on Saturday to attend a meeting grouping the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the ICRC permanent committee and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Participants will discuss subjects connected with these societies work around the world, and plans for conferences and seminars to promote their activities. During his stay in Geneva, Dr. Abu Qoura will hold meetings with ICRC officials designed to increase cooperation between the ICRC and Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies.

Sports associations give JD 11,640 to Yarmouk Force

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian sports associations are contributing JD 11,640 to the all-volunteer Yarmouk Force formed by His Majesty King Hussein to fight alongside Iraqi troops in the Gulf war. Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar announced here Saturday.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the Prime Ministry, attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and heads of sports associations in the country.

At the meeting, Mr. Badran reviewed Iraq's aggression on Iraq, and Iranian-Israeli collaboration in the war.

Meanwhile, in Jerash, it was announced Saturday that a public rally in support of the Yarmouk Force initiative will be held there on Tuesday. All municipal and village councils, chambers of commerce, clubs and societies in Jerash District are to take part in the rally.

Also Saturday, it was announced in Amman that more institutions and individuals have offered contributions to the Yarmouk Force. Among the major contributors were Amman Municipality officials and workers, who are contributing JD 11,000. Ministry of Finance and Customs employees, JD 4,700, and customs officers around the country's borders, JD 10,100.

The Royal Court Saturday received a cable from Jordanian students in the Soviet Union pleading support for King Hussein's initiative to send volunteers to assist Iraq in the Gulf war. The students offered to enlist in the force, and renewed their allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

CORRECTION

A news item on page 1 of Saturday's Jordan Times reported incorrectly that Dr. Nureddin Arafat of the Jordan University Hospital had, for the first time in Jordan, cured cataracts in a patient's eyes by using a laser beam.

The ailment which Dr. Arafat cured in the unique 25-minute operation was glaucoma. The Jordan Times regrets the error, which was due to a mistranslation from Arabic to English.

Today's Weather

It will be rather cold, with scattered clouds. Winds will be northerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

	Overnight low	Daytime high
Amman	2	10
Aqaba	9	17
Deserts	1	11
Jordan Valley	11	19

It's Valentine's Day

JOIN US AT

El Pasha DISCOTHEQUE

10.00 P.M.

Amman's most experienced hotel
HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

• Young Artists of Jordan, an exhibition of paintings, at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City.

• Exhibition of Iraqi books on political, economic, historical and literary subjects, and other publications. At the University of Jordan Hall.

Film

• Un Enfant dans la Foule, a colour film sub-titled in Arabic, at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

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Jeane's way

GUESS WHO addressed the national executive committee meeting of the United States' Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Palm Beach, Florida on Thursday night? It was none other than our old friend Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American U.N. representative, who, when she has some free time off from her voluntary duties as guardian of the moral standards of humanity, tends to make simplistic speeches in public to show us that her bias and ignorance know neither geographic boundaries nor quantitative limits. She told her audience that Syria's refusal to enter into peace talks with Israel was the chief obstacle to peace between the two countries. She then went on to say that the United Nations was in the midst of a deepening crisis. How right she is on the second point. But does she not see the connection between that point and her own statements to Zionist audiences in sunny Florida?

The United Nations reflects the state of the world, and the state of the world, given the nature of Israeli power over American decision-makers, is ailing. Mrs. Kirkpatrick, being just a bit naive, and badly prone to speaking in front of Jewish audiences about things she knows little about, reflects the standard American government view that the Arabs must make peace with Israel on Israel's terms and the world will live happily ever after. Nowhere does one discern an American commitment to the principle of mutual and equal recognition between Israeli and Palestinian states: nowhere do we hear American officials talk about a process of national detente and reconciliation between Arabs and Israelis, by which both can live together as free and equal people. Nowhere — not even in Palm Beach — do we get an indication from American leaders that peace for Israel should also mean peace for the Palestinians. All we get is nonsense and one-sided rhetoric... and Jeane. No wonder the U.N. is falling apart.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Will U.S. yield to blackmail?

AL RA'I: Israeli government and opposition circles and newspapers have expressed their apprehension that Jordan might be supplied with advanced U.S. weapons like F-16 planes and anti-aircraft missiles.

These circles and newspapers have hinted that the Israeli-U.S. relations might face a new crisis if Jordan was supplied with these weapons. They have started to talk about an "anti-Israeli trend" inside the U.S. administration, implicitly accusing U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger of this trend.

It seems that Israel wants to exploit this question in blackmailing the U.S. administration in order to maintain its strategic supremacy in the region. Israel also wants to be a party whose approval Washington should seek on what weapons to be supplied and to whom.

The Arabs have always alerted the U.S. administration to acts of blackmail and to its dangers. Nonetheless this will not influence Jordan's free will to arm its army and to adopt any other decisions. This might be the major reason why Israel harbours such hostility towards Jordan and drives it to launch tendentious propaganda campaigns against Jordan like the one it is launching now on advanced U.S. weapons to Jordan.

Jordan does not care for these campaigns because it understands the reasons behind them. Jordan is certain of its free will and that it is capable of achieving what it seeks.

Time to decide

AL DUSTOUR: It is neither strange nor surprising to see Israel making this big noise about the possibility that Jordan might get advanced U.S. weapons. This Israeli stand has been expected because Israel's strategy is based on maintaining military supremacy in the region by keeping Arabs weak.

Israel had repeatedly stood against Jordan's acquiring U.S.-made advanced weapons and military hardware. It had been able to stop a number of arms deals through its supporters and lobbyist at the U.S. Congress. It is not a secret that during his recent visit to Washington, His Majesty King Hussein had asked to purchase U.S. ground-to-air mobile missiles and that the United States had refused under Zionist pressure and offered to sell Jordan stationary Hawk missiles.

It is clear that Israel is determined and is doing its best in order to keep the balance of strength in its favour so as to guarantee its military supremacy in the region and in order to blackmail the United States to support it on the assumption that it is the only power in the region capable of serving U.S. interests therein.

What concerns us here is not the noise made by Israel but the stand of the United States. Will the United States remain the prisoner of Israeli pressure or will the United States maintain its independence and behave as a super power with international responsibilities and vital interests in the Arab World? Washington has for a long time been under Israel's control. It has linked its policy with that of Israel and has appointed itself as a protector for Israeli aggressions and secured Israel's occupation of the Arab territories.

IN FOCUS

The rise and fall of Freddie Laker

By Dr. Majdi Sabri

"Lakerville, the instant shanty town in the streets around Victoria Station, London, continued to grow yesterday as the summer, nearing its height, unleashed a second day of torrential rain on the flimsy shelter of its two thousand inhabitants."

"The queue, as it is affectionately known, edges slowly towards its goal: The Skytrain office in the station where each day, several hundred people pay £59 for a one-way ticket to New York by courtesy of Sir Frederick Laker."

The above two paragraphs are extracted from The Times of London (Aug. 3, 1978) describing briefly but skillfully, the Skytrain encampments which have passed into legend. No one at that time thought that Skytrain service, which ushered in an era of cheap fares, will suddenly collapse causing shock and disappointment among many air travellers as well as air transport enthusiasts.

Freddie Laker, the self-made millionaire entered the world of aviation as a teaboy in a World War II aircraft factory and later formed his own airline with money he borrowed from a man he met in a pub. After several years of wrangling with aviation licensing authorities and giant airlines on both sides of the Atlantic he launched his "no-frills" Skytrain service between London and New York in October 1977. His idea was to sell low-cost travel to ordinary

members of the public who could not afford to travel at the prevailing level of fares.

Sir Freddie was able to offer his exceptionally low fare through a combination of low operating costs and high load factors.

The low cost of operation was achieved through subcontracting maintenance and ground and sales services to specialised agencies which resulted in a drastic reduction in overheads. The cost of in-flight passenger services was also reduced by charging passengers for meals and by keeping a smaller number of cabin staff on board.

In the meantime, passengers paying the Laker fare were willing to put up with the hardships of travelling at night enabling the airline to maximise the utilisation of aircraft and crew.

During the first year of operations Sir Freddie achieved a profit of £1 million and earned a king's ransom while most other North-Atlantic operators incurred tremendous losses.

After three years of operation, and at a time when many people thought that Skytrain is the shape of things to come in low-cost travel, troubles started to come Laker's way. Demand fell sharply on his major routes chiefly because of world recession, because fuel prices continued to rise and because interest rates surged in

the Western world. In the meantime, Sir Freddie found it increasingly difficult to honour his payments to aircraft manufacturers mainly because of a sharp fall in the value of the pound sterling from \$2.4 at the time of signing the contracts to around \$1.9 when payments were due.

As Laker's desperate attempts to reschedule his soaring debts ended in failure, he announced ten days ago that his airline had gone bust.

It is believed that air transport economists and financial experts will soon start to analyse the Laker bold venture. Their analysis will inevitably focus on identifying the factors responsible for the airline's tragic collapse.

However, one is tempted to believe that Sir Freddie's idealistic views of the air transport industry was to some extent responsible for his bankruptcy. He has always believed that competitive conditions should prevail in the international airline industry. Under such conditions, the "most efficient" operator would be able to capture a significant traffic share because of his ability to offer reduced fares. The "less efficient" operators would eventually be forced to withdraw their services from certain routes or improve their operating conditions in order to be able to compete successfully with the efficient airline.

This, of course, is not the case

in an industry which has rendered most of its economics to politicians.

Most scheduled airlines, which are subsidised either directly or indirectly by their respective governments, prefer to incur losses than to withdraw from a market which has special social and political significance.

In fact, the scheduled airlines have reacted promptly to Skytrain service by offering reduced fares such as Standby Fares, Thrift Fares, Budget Fares, Eleventh Hour Fares and Bottom Dollar Fares. Consequently, the North-Atlantic routes suddenly turned into a battlefield for a vigorous fare-cutting war which resulted in tremendous losses for scheduled airlines totalling about \$600 million in 1981. While losses incurred by scheduled carriers were partly compensated by profits achieved on their monopolistic and oligopolistic routes which are highly remunerative, Laker lost his small profit margin and was left on his own like a defenceless lame duck.

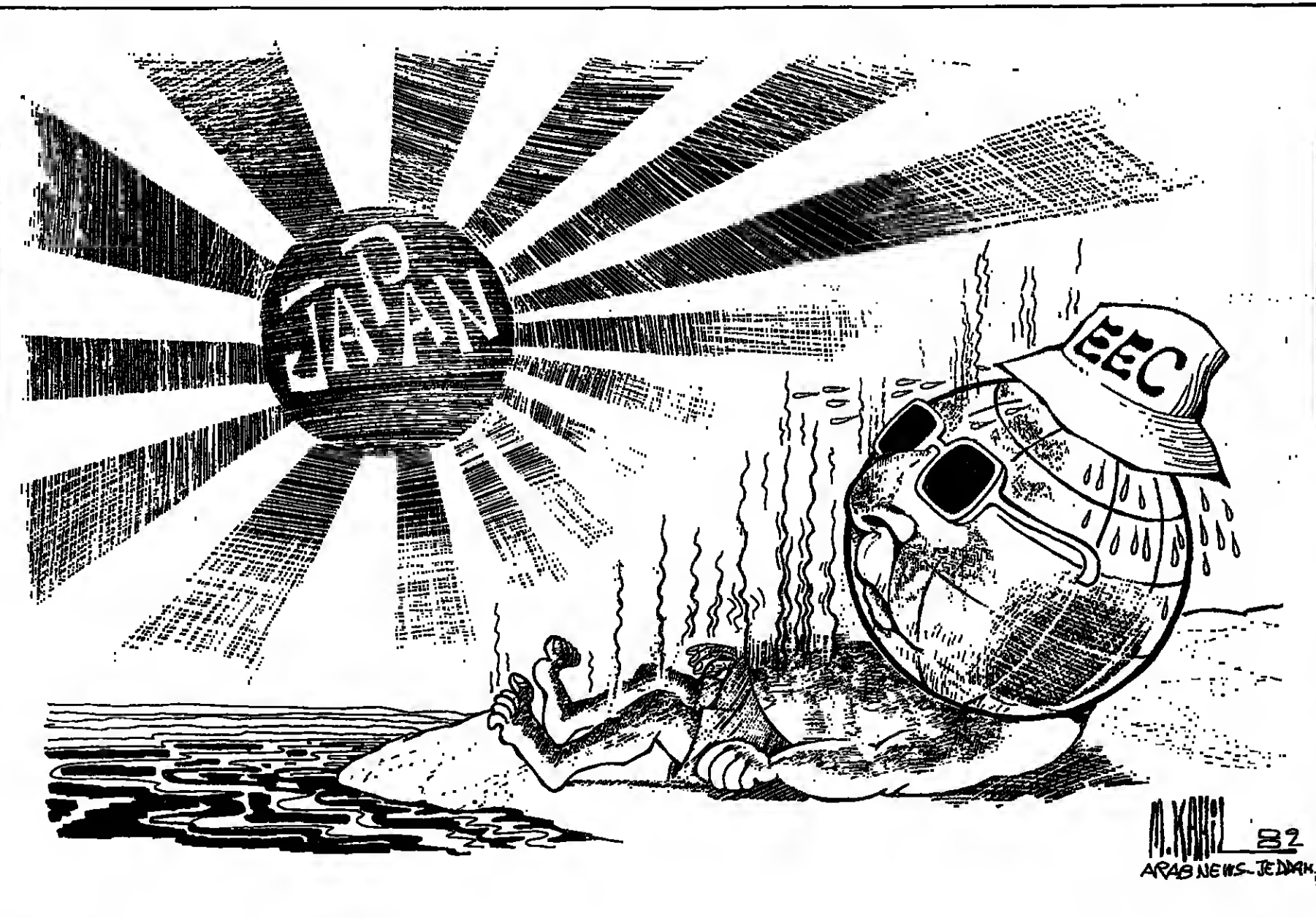
The other important factor which may have contributed to Laker's collapse stems from the fact that he started to think big far too soon. Following his success on the London-New York routes, he launched a new service to Los Angeles and filed a request with European aviation authorities to get the necessary

permissions to operate over 600 intra-European routes. His ultimate objective was to operate around-the-world Skytrain services. When his request for the massive intra-European operation was turned down, he decided to turn back to the U.S. market. He added Miami and San Francisco to his route map and rapidly enlarged his fleet.

The rapid expansion of Skytrain service deprived Sir Freddie from some cost advantages and inevitably increased his overheads. In the meantime, his complete reliance on a specialised segment of the market, made him vulnerable to seasonal traffic fluctuations. Despite all his efforts to broaden the appeal of his service, Sir Freddie was unable to attract business travellers who are keen on punctuality, advanced booking and proper in-flight service.

The collapse of Skytrain service has, undoubtedly, left a gap in the international airline industry. I have no doubt that the industry will soon find the means to meet air travellers' demand for cheap travel whether by intensifying the operation of low-fare charters or by introducing more of the multi-product scheduled services.

What remains to be seen is the industry's ability to meet the travellers' demand and achieve in the meantime a satisfactory level of profits.



IRA may be an issue in Eire elections

Reuter

DUBLIN — Hardline supporters of the guerrilla struggle to end British rule in Northern Ireland will soon put their views to their first major electoral test in the Irish Republic.

Provisional Sinn Fein, political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA), will field seven candidates in a general election set for Feb. 18.

The election follows the defeat of Garret FitzGerald's seven-month-old minority coalition government last month.

The smaller Marxist Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP), which also backs the fight to reunify British-ruled Northern Ireland with the republic, will put up six candidates.

The decision of both groups to contest the election was encouraged by limited initial success in the previous poll last June, when two republican prisoners in Northern Ireland won seats in the Irish parliament.

The two jail inmates were elected in a groundswell of public sympathy for 10 IRA prisoners fasting to death in hunger strikes demanding status as political prisoners.

However the atmosphere now is much less emotional as tension has

ceased and the status of prisoners is no longer an issue.

Last time the candidates ran on a common ticket to draw attention to the plight of the hunger strikers. This time, with two exceptions, they will not be behind bars and will be running with different party labels.

The exceptions are Seamus McElwain, who is awaiting trial in Belfast on charges of murdering a part-time soldier, and Joe O'Connell, who is serving 30 years in an English prison for his part in bomb attacks against the British army in England.

Hardline republicans want to smash an unwritten agreement among the main parties to exclude the Northern Ireland question from the election and thereby prove there is support for the guerrilla campaign.

Political observers say they are unlikely to win more than two or three seats but add that they will gain publicity and could find themselves holding the balance of power.

To the outgoing parliament, a move by three independent deputies was enough to tip the balance against Mr. FitzGerald's minority coalition and opinion polls show this month's vote could produce another very close result.

The republicans have judged their campaign for maximum impact,

venturing into areas where they feel republican tendencies are strongest and the seats marginal. Most of the target constituencies border Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein says it will not bail any election victories as an endorsement of IRA violence.

But President Ruairi O'Bradaigh nevertheless makes clear: Sinn Fein supports the right of the people to engage in armed struggle for their national liberation.

Sinn Fein officials say if any of their candidates are elected they will not take their seats in parliament.

But one ardent republican who will call a seat if elected is Bernadette McAliskey, who is standing in Dublin as an independent.

A decade ago, as Bernadette Devlin, she captured world attention by leading a Catholic civil rights campaign in Northern Ireland and won a seat in the British parliament from 1971-74.

Her campaign for a seat in the British parliament marks her return to active politics after surviving an assassination attempt by Protestant gunmen last year.

Like Sinn Fein and the IRSP, her campaign attacks the Northern Ireland policies of past Dublin governments.

The main parties, Dr. FitzGerald's Fine Gael, its Labour coalition partners and the opposition Fianna Fail, are concentrating on the economic problems which toppled the outgoing government.

As in past elections, they are steering clear of the Northern Ireland question, partly because they fear a divisive controversy in the republic could heighten tension in the north, where violence has claimed more than 2,000 lives in 13 years.

Opinion polls have shown that only a small minority of the Irish Republic's 2.2 million voters choose their candidate on the basis of his views on Northern Ireland. The vast majority are more concerned with economic questions.

Fianna Fail's leader, former Prime Minister Charles Haughey, caught the general mood when he said: "I would like to see all the parties stating their view on Northern Ireland and leaving it at that."

Nevertheless, the republican campaign drags the theory promulgated into the election and could highlight the differences between the policies of Dr. FitzGerald and Mr. Haughey.

They share the old nationalist dream of a united, independent Ireland and they reject violence. But beyond that, their opinions

diverge.

Dr. FitzGerald argues that the predominantly-Catholic republic should reform its laws and constitution to win the confidence and trust of the northern Protestant majority.

Mr. Haughey rejects this as a vain hope, saying the protestants will never consider Irish unity while their links with Britain are assured by successive governments in London.

He says Britain should press the Protestants to the conference table by giving a commitment to withdraw from the province at a fixed date in the future. He adds that a Fianna Fail government would make generous concessions to the Protestants, once talks have begun on the share of a united Ireland.

A controversy about Northern Ireland would be unwelcome in Britain, where the government is preparing the first initiative for several years on devolving powers to the province.

Dr. FitzGerald is keen on the move, which has not yet been spelled out publicly, and says any step towards a political solution would be useful.

But Mr. Haughey has forecast that the initiative will be stillborn. Any initiative which does not include an Irish dimension, he argues, is doomed.

Charter 77 lives on

By Colin McIntyre

VIENNA (R) — The Czechoslovak "Charter 77" human rights movement, still alive though hardly thriving, has just celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Set up in January 1977 with 242 signatories who called for a dialogue with the government over human rights and urged the authorities to abide by their own laws, the charter has established itself as a factor in Czechoslovak society, though opinion on its significance vary.

However, hopes that it would develop into a mass movement have faded. While it could boast a total of 800 signatories just six months after its creation, in the intervening four and a half years it has managed to add only 400 more.

Last September a charter offshoot, the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS), said in a statement reaching Vienna that repression by the Prague authorities, clearly worried by events in Poland, had become so severe that it might be forced to cease its activities.

Several leading members of Vons, which publicises examples of alleged government abuse of power and violations of civil rights, are either in prison or subject to criminal proceedings, and eight others have been forced to emigrate.

The crackdown on this group, created a year after the charter proper, followed the detention and expulsion last spring of two French citizens accused of trying to smuggle in emigre literature and money for dissidents.

But while the charter may have been tamed, it has not been silenced.

It marked its fifth birthday last month by declaring that it was now one of the realities of contemporary life, and announcing the latest in a long line of spokesmen, some of them once prominent figures in political and cultural life.

One of the best-known, former foreign minister Jiri Hajek, wrote to the public prosecutor last November rejecting charges of subversion against him as based on false evidence.

Last month the charter issued statements condemning martial law in Poland and declaring its support for the day of Solidarity with the Polish people organised in several countries on Jan. 31.

The movement was founded as the "Charter 77 Civil Initiative" in January, 1977, two months after Czechoslovakia ratified and published international human rights conventions signed 10 years earlier.

The reaction of the government was swift and almost frantic. Signatories were pilloried as "political shipwrecks", many were subjected to police interrogation and some were arrested.

An "anti-charter" signature campaign was quickly organised, and there was a joke circulating that the millionth signatory would get a special prize — a look at the charter.

In October, 1979, the government moved against the charter and VONS with a vengeance, putting six activists, including internationally-known playwright Václav Havel, on trial and sending them to prison for long terms.

The nucleus of the original signatories were former members of the Communist Party who lost their positions in the "normalisation" process which followed the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia.

But the movement also attracted a wide assortment of other individuals and groups disenchanted with the system, ranging from radical Trotskyites to religious believers.

Activists do not consider themselves dissidents, as they regard themselves as acting under rights granted by the Czechoslovak constitution.

The broad spectrum of interests in the movement has been both its weakness, making consensus on charter documents difficult, and its strength, since it can hardly be accused of being an organised political opposition.

During the past year or so a debate has been going on in the movement between those prepared to sacrifice their livelihoods, and those arguing for a lower profile and broader base.

Charter signatories can expect to lose their jobs, forcing them into casual work, and their children are normally barred from going to university.

Whatever they decide, the dissidents appear determined to soldier on. In its fifth anniversary statement, the charter said the fact that it had existed for five years proved that the problems it was set up to tackle were still around.

ECONOMY

Mubarak seeks economic reform

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday that if Egypt's population continued to grow at its present high rate it could wreck the country's chances for economic recovery.

Mr. Mubarak, addressing a conference of experts convened to find a solution to Egypt's economic ills, urged that priority be given to the problem posed by a 1.3 million annual population growth rate.

"The present rate of population increase obstructs economic development and shatters our hopes for securing a prosperous life for every Egyptian," he said.

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt's population, estimated last month at 44 million, would reach 70 million by the year 2000 and double in the following 25 years.

This would cripple any effort to provide sufficient food, employment, health, education and other services for all Egyptians, the 53-year-old leader added.

Mr. Mubarak, who assumed power after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat last October, has given top priority to working out a new five-year economic strategy aimed at boosting production and cutting back on Egypt's big import bill.

The three-day conference of some 30 politicians and economic experts is likely to set the trends for the country's economy in the post-Sadat era. Its recommendations will be debated by the People's Assembly (parliament) before the government financial programme is drawn up for the 1982-1983 budget.

Mr. Mubarak said he expected the conference to provide practical alternatives, solutions and plans which "can be applied and not mere studies far from realities."

"We must not overlook the fact that sound economic development should not only aim at increasing gross national product (GNP) but also raise the living standard of everybody."

"Consolidating the country's economy is the responsibility of every Egyptian," he told the conference, adding that increasing production, rationalising consumption and curbing extravagance were the pillars of a strong economy.

The economic "open door" policy of the late President Sadat, introduced to help bring in foreign investment, has been criticised in the run-up to the conference for encouraging the import of luxury goods and other items beyond the

reach of ordinary Egyptians.

Many experts said too many luxury imports had harmed the economy and wasted large sums of foreign currency which could have been used to import machinery, spare parts and other equipment needed to increase production.

After he was elected president, Mr. Mubarak pledged to maintain the "open door" policy, but to cut out what Egyptians see as abuses of the system.

Mr. Mubarak underlined the importance of economic prosperity as a fundamental factor for political stability.

He urged the conference to tackle Egypt's chronic housing problem saying the present rate of population increase required the building of 15 million housing units in the next 25 years.

Mr. Mubarak said Egyptians were ready to make sacrifices to help set the economy back on course.

"Our people are ready to sh-

oulder the burdens of economic developments as long as there is serious and hard work to achieve this aim," Mr. Mubarak said.

President Mubarak made no reference to government efforts to expand an ambitious family planning programme launched more than 10 years ago to curb the population explosion.

Under the programme, first initiated by the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser, thousands of family planning centres were established throughout the country to provide free contraceptives and marriage advice.

The campaign was intensified recently with the establishment of more centres and radio and television programmes extolling the benefits of having a small family.

Muslim and Christian religious leaders in Egypt have tended to oppose family planning on religious grounds, but millions of Egyptians, particularly the young, have responded to the campaign.

Cotton producers eager to stabilise prices

By Guy Dinmore

Reuter

LONDON — Third World cotton producers, including many of the world's poorest countries, are stepping up pressure for an international agreement to stabilise prices, which fell by one-third last year.

The producers, who are meeting in Nigeria in April to review progress on setting up their own association, may decide on unilateral action to keep prices steady if no progress is made towards an international cotton agreement with consumer countries, according to UNCTAD sources in Geneva.

UNCTAD — the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development — has been trying to find a compromise formula since

talks in Geneva on the international agreement broke up last May.

Talks on ending the deadlocked meeting will resume in late March. Cotton is vital to the economies of many of the Third World producers who were badly hit last year when prices fell from about 95 cents a pound (\$2.09 a kilo) to around 64 cents (\$1.41 a kilo) because of a record harvest and slack demand.

One of the earliest fibres known

to man, cotton is grown in 17 of the world's 30 poorest countries but a handful of trading companies based in the United States, Britain, Japan and Switzerland dominate the market.

A U.N. study last year said that the firms control 85 to 90 per cent of the cotton bought and sold on world markets and that collusive trading practice were fairly common.

By world standards Sudan, Yemen, Egypt, Mali and Benin, the Central African Republic, Upper Volta and Nicaragua are small producers but they all rely on cotton for more than 25 per cent of their export earnings. For Chad cotton accounts for more than 70 per cent of exports.

All would benefit from stable prices but so far they have received no practical backing from the world's two leading producers — the United States and the Soviet Union.

The two super-growers between them will account for more than a third of a record world harvest of about 71 million bales of 218 kilograms in the year starting last August.

The United States, with its traditional leaning towards free trade, prefers to let market forces dominate.

The attitude of the Soviet Union is less clear. Industry sources say the Soviets have given vocal support to the so-called Izmir group of 18 developing nations which are trying to set up a producers' association, but there have been no tangible signs that they are eager to promote the cause.

The immediate outlook for cotton does not look good, industry analysts say. Despite the lower prices brought about by the record harvest, world recession has stopped demand rising.

This season's bumper crop will exceed world demand of 66.5 million bales, pushing up cotton held in stocks to 26.8 million bales, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) predicted in a recent report.

USDA analyst Russell Barlowe said 1982 exports from the United States will be affected by cuts in purchases by China, a major importer, as part of its economic retrenchment programme.

China is barely buying at all this year, according to John Garner, an expert in Liverpool, the site of Britain's cotton exchange.

The USDA also predicts that a shift away from denim and corduroys to dressier lightweight fabrics in fashion-conscious Western

Europe and Japan will result in an overall drop in demand for cotton.

One bright spot is that consumption is rising along with population growth in India, China, the Soviet Union and Brazil.

Even though cotton in the U.S. can now undercut man-made polyester by 10 cents a pound (22 cents a kilo), necessary changes in machinery and dyeing processes mean the textile industry is slow to adapt.

John Santley, executive director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee based in Washington, said an upturn in the U.S. textile industry leading to an improvement for cotton is not expected until the latter half of 1982 at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Third World countries, for whom processing cotton into cloth is a major industry, still face the problem of Western protectionism in textiles.

"Recession is the main force pushing industrialised countries to further protectionist measures," according to Steve Schiffer of the World Development Movement, a Third World pressure-group based in London.

Mr. Schiffer describes cotton as "a curious commodity." Large amounts of cloth are shipped to such countries as Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan where cheap labour makes them invaluable to the textile world, threatening the textile industries there.

In 1962 the first formal restrictions were imposed on cotton textiles and clothing imports from developing countries and in 1974 the first Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) extended import quotas to man-made fibres.

The West European clothing and textile industry has been shedding jobs at a rate of 100,000 a year since 1977 and U.S. textile mills have seen rising unemployment over the last year.

In recent negotiations on extending the MFA, European countries such as Britain and Italy, whose industries have suffered most in recent years, argued strongly for curbs on textile imports from developing countries.

The end result for the new agreement which came into force on January 1 was an uneasy compromise which failed to satisfy European demands for protection and the developing countries' desire to expand.

The outcome could generally depress the textile industry, making the future bleaker for cotton producing countries, industry analysts say.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Inflation down in OECD countries

PARIS (R) — Inflation continued its downward trend in December for the 24 countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the organisation said Friday.

Consumer prices in the OECD area, which covers most Western nations and Japan, rose 9.9 per cent in the 12 months to December. This compared with a 10.1 per cent rise in the 12 months to November and 12.1 per cent in the 12 months to December, 1980.

"The favourable December performance reflected continuing moderation in food and energy prices at the retail level," the OECD said.

Japan had the lowest inflation of the OECD area with a rate of 4.3 per cent in the 12 months to December, although the increase was higher than the 3.6 per cent recorded in November.

Iceland remained top of the OECD inflation league with a 47.4 per cent increase, followed by Turkey with a rise of 32.2 per cent.

JAL expands Middle East functions

KUWAIT (Agencies) — To keep up with an increase in traffic between Japan and the Middle East, the Middle East regional office of Japan Airlines (JAL) has announced the expansion of its functions and an increased capacity to provide information and assistance to Japanese or other travellers visiting the Middle East. The regional office staff here is being enlarged to include assistant vice presidents for passenger marketing, cargo marketing, administration services and Middle East group movement to serve JAL offices and independent travel agents throughout the region. Mr. Sawa, JAL vice president for the Middle East region, added in a statement to the press that JAL will also provide information and assistance to travellers from the Middle East going to Japan.

Morocco, Oman to boost economic ties

RABAT (R) — Morocco and Oman will step up economic cooperation, according to a joint communiqué issued here Friday after a four-day visit by Mohamed Zoubair, Omani minister of commerce and industry.

The communiqué said that during his stay Mr. Zoubair conferred with King Hassan and had talks with Morocco's minister of commerce, industry and tourism, Azzeddine Guessous.

At the talks the two countries agreed to diversify trade and promote investment in their countries.

Accords on trade and technical and economic cooperation were signed during Mr. Zoubair's visit and Mr. Guessous accepted an invitation to visit Oman at a date to be fixed later.

Moscow buys more U.S. grain

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has made another large purchase of U.S. grain, the second this week, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department.

It said private grain exporting companies had notified the government of the sale totalling 350,000 tonnes of maize worth an estimated \$41 million at current market prices.

The department on Wednesday reported a sale of 150,000 tonnes of maize, the first purchase of U.S. grain by Moscow since relations deteriorated in mid-December over the military crackdown in Poland.

Soon after martial law was imposed in Poland on December 13, President Reagan suspended food aid to the Warsaw government and later halted talks on a long-term grain agreement with the Soviet Union.

But Mr. Reagan has allowed grain trade with Moscow to continue despite warnings of a possible trade embargo.

Strike hits B.A. flights

LONDON (R) — British Airways long-distance services from London's Heathrow Airport came to a halt Saturday as union officials argued over a proposed formula to end a five-day strike by the airline's 2,000 ground staff.

Representatives of the state-owned airways and officials of Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers, reached an agreement last night to end the strike over rostering, a B.A. spokesman said.

But Ken Gallacher, an official of another union representing ground staff, said: "We believe this could well be a ploy by the management."

All British Airways intercontinental services, including those of the supersonic Concorde airliner, were suspended while the unions debated whether to accept the formula.

There were fears the strike could spread to other airlines if tanker drivers and aircraft maintenance men refused to cross picket lines.

UNCTAD calls for urgent action on international commodity pacts

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations committee has agreed that urgent action is needed to assist developing countries counter a massive shortfall from commodities earnings.

The 100-member committee of the U.N. Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), ending two weeks of talks on the subject Friday night, called on governments to negotiate further effective international commodity agreements.

It also asked member countries to speed up ratification of the U.N. agreement setting up a common fund aimed at financing buffer stocks to stabilise world prices for raw materials.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3

4:30 Koran
4:50 Cartoons
5:15 Children's programmes
7:00 Programme Preview
7:10 Programme on Sports
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:30 Local Cultural Programme
10:10 Arabic Series
11:30 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6

6:00 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Fighter Pilot
9:10 My Father's House
10:00 News in English
10:15 The Love Boat

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM
& 99 MHz, FM

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning Show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning Show
8:00 News Headlines
8:30 Pop Session
9:00 Sign off
9:01 News Headlines
9:03 Pop Session
9:30 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Bulletin
10:40 News Summary
11:00 Instruments
11:30 Invention and Discoveries
12:00 Concert Hour
12:30 News Summary
12:40 Instruments
13:00 Old Favourites
13:30 Listeners' Choice
14:00 News Summary
14:30 Jazz Hour
15:00 Newsdesk
15:30 Instruments
16:00 Evening Show
16:30 News Summary
17:00 Evening Show
17:30 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

GMT
04:00 Newsdesk 04:30 Marching and Walsing 04:45 Financial Review 04:55 Reflections 05:00 World News; British Press Review 05:15 Letterbox 05:30 Opera Gallery 05:45 Letter from America 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Jazz for the asking 07:00 World News; News about Britain 07:15 From Our Own Correspondent 07:30 Classical Record Review 07:45 The End of the Affair 08:00 World News; Reflections 08:15 The Pleasure's Yours 08:30 World News; British Press Review 09:15 People and Politics 09:45 Sports Review 10:15 Twentieth Century Folk 10:30 Religious Service 11:00 World News; News about Britain 11:15 Letter from America 11:30 Play of the Week 12:30 Baker's Half-Dozen 13:00 World News; Commentary 13:15 Good Books 13:30 World Service Short Story 13:45 The Sandi Jones Request Show 14:30 Smash of the Day: The Navy Lark 15:00 Radio Newsreel 15:15 Concert Hall 16:00 World News; Commentary 16:15 From our own Correspondent 16:35 Financial Review 16:45 Letter from America 17:00 World News; Meridian 17:40 Reflections 17:45 Sportscafe 18:00 World News; News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsreel 18:30 The Revue en Men 19:00 Country Style 19:15 Radio Theatre: Lost Horizon 20:40 World News; Commentary 20:45 Letterbox 20:50 Sunday Half-Hour 21:00 Is Sir Out of Date? 21:15 The Pleasure's Yours 22:00 World News 22:05 Science in Action 22:40 Reflections 22:45 Sportscafe 23:00 World News; Commentary 23:15 Letter from America 23:30 Strictly Instrumental

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
03:30 The Breakfast Show: 06:30 News on the hour and 28 min. after each hour 17:00 News and New Products (USA) 17:15 Critics Choice 17:30 Studio One 18:00 Special English: News/Worlds and their

stories, feature "People in America" 18:30 Music USA (Standards) 19:00 News and Topical Reports 19:15 News Horizons 19:30 Issues in the News 20:00 Special English: News/Worlds and their stories 20:15 The Concert Hall 21:00 News and New Products USA 21:15 Critics Choice 21:30 Studio One

AMMAN AIRPORT

NOTE: The following airport arrivals and departures are provided to the Jordan Times by the Air Information department at Amman Airport, Tel. 92205-6. They should always be verified by phone before the arrival or departure of the flight.

ARRIVALS:

8:00 Cairo (EA)
8:45 Cairo
8:55 Agaba
9:15 Dnabi, Abu Dhabi
9:30 Jeddah
9:40 Kuwait
10:10 Beirut
11:05 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Jeddah (SV)
15:35 Kuwait (KAC)
16:30 Cairo
16:45 Tripoli, Tunis
17:00 Athens
17:10 Paris
17:30 Paris, London
17:45 New York, Vienna
17:50 Brussels, Geneva
18:00 Cairo
19:10 Athens, Zurich (SR)
19:30 Rome
20:30 Beirut (MEA)
20:30 Frankfurt (LH)
21:55 Beirut
23:55 Baghdad
01:00 Baghdad
01:00 Cairo (EA)
02:00 Baghdad

DEPARTURES:

3:30 Cairo
6:45 Beirut
7:00 Agaba
8:30 London (BA)
9:00 Rome (Alitalia)
9:00 Cairo (EA)
9:25 Beirut (MEA)
10:00 Frankfurt
10:30 Rome

11:15 Athens
11:30 Cairo
12:05 Riyadh (SV)
13:00 Cairo
15:00 Jeddah (SV)
16:30 Kuwait (KAC)
18:30 Beirut
18:45 Abu Dhabi
19:00 Kuwait
19:15 Dhahran
19:30 Jeddah
19:45 Baghdad
20:15 Baghdad
20:30 Dubai, Muscat
20:45 Bahrain, Doha
21:15 Bangkok
22:00 Baghdad
02:00 Cairo (EA)

EMERGENCIES

DOCTORS:
Amman:
Mohammad Al Abbadi 78999
Nabil Maridi 36356

Zargat:
Hisham Hiyasat 82440

Irbid:
Adnan Al Naser 2415

PHARMACIES:
Amman:
Al Salam 36730
Khaled 56601
Khamis 69411
Al Tabar 38222

Zargat:
Al Shifa' (—)

Irbid:
Al Shimal (—)

TAXIS:
Jerusalem 39655
Tala 25821
Faisal 22051
Al Burj 61028

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37099
Goethe Institut 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44583
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hayat Arts Centre 65195
Al Hussein Youth City 67181

Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 64251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355/84366

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr 4:56
Sunrise 6:20
Dhuhr 11:50
Asr 2:56
Maghreb 5:21
Isha 6:45

CHURCHES

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweideh 37440

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman 24590

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein 66428

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali 23541

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman 23585

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh 75261

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh 71331

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shm-eisani 63249

MUSEUMS

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from

the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday to Friday. Closed on Saturdays. Tel. 64240. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also murals from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 15th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Popular Life of Jordan Museum:

100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed on Tuesdays.

sculptures. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century oriental artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweideh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Saudi riyal 100.6/100.8
Lebanese pound 70/70.8
Syrian pound 57.8/58.5
Iraqi dinar 691/700
Kuwaiti dinar 1204.6/1211.6
Egyptian pound 344/349.3
Qatari riyal 94.3/94.6

UAE dirham 93.8/94
Omani rial 992.6/998.3
U.S. dollar 345/347
U.K. sterling 634.1/637.9
W. German mark 144.6/145.5
Swiss franc 180.3/181.4
French franc 37/37.3

Italian lire 27.1/27.3 (for every 100)
Japanese yen 145.7/146.6 (for every 100)
Dutch guilder 132.7/133.5
Belgian franc 85.4/85.9
Swedish crown 59.7/60.1

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) 75111
Civil Defence rescue 61111
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency) 71125-6-7-8
Police headquarters 39144
Najdah rioting patrol rescue police. (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency 21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA) 92285/92286
Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111

Firstaid, fire, police 199
Fire headquarters 22090
Cablegram or telegram 18

Telephone:

Information 12
Jordan and Middle East trunk calls 10
Overseas radio and satellite calls 17
Telephone maintenance and repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Tomatoes 170
Eggplant (large) 180
Potatoes (imported) 120
Marrow (small) 230
Marrow (large) 170
Cucumber (small) 500
Cucumber (large) 350
Hot Green Pepper 440
Sweet Pepper 300
Cabbage 120
Onions (dry) 100
Green onions 140
Garlic 500
Spinach 300
Cocum (pice) 380
Beans 260
Bananas 225
Bananas (Mukammar) 180
Local Potatoes 140

Broad Beans 300
Apples (Golden) 270
Apples (Double Red) 270
Apples (Starkeo) 250
Lemons 160
Oranges (Shamouni) 220
Oranges (local) 130
Oranges (Valencia) 130
Cauliflowers (white) 110
Cauliflowers (local) 250
Bonani 230
Carrot 170
Turnips 160
Chestnut 540
Capefruit 110
Beet 100
Lettuce (a head) 100
Mandarin oranges 250

SPORTS

Beware of Poland, Bearzot cautions

ROME (R) — Italian soccer manager Enzo Bearzot won't be reading too much into Poland's ignominious 2-1 defeat by Italian third division club Modena on Thursday.

The cautious Bearzot, whose team play Poland in the opening Group One match of the World Soccer Cup finals on June 14, commented: "Just remember this is the same Poland that outclassed Argentina in Buenos Aires three or four months ago. We had better not allow ourselves any illusions, believe me."

With the knowledgeable Bearzot in this frame of mind, the Polish debacle should not rouse too much hope in Peru and Cameroon, whose teams will also compete in Group One.

The Poles showed in the unexpected defeat by Modena that they badly needed match practice to rebuild morale and sharpen their skills.

Team manager Antoni Piechniczek, while offering no excuses, at least suggested a reason for the debacle.

"We played badly. But our championship ended on November 28, since then these players have hardly touched a ball," he said.

Piechniczek might have added that since then Poles have had a lot to think about beyond soccer.

The three-game Italian tour is the squad's first trip outside Poland since last December.

"Politics and football are two separate things," a team spokesman said earlier this week.

"The fact that this is their first trip away since martial law is not relevant."

But some Italian commentators suggested that martial law and its harsh restraints on normal living could well have had a psychological effect on the players.

The leading Italian sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport* said that team captain Zbigniew Boniek had "spent more time on the telephone than on the pitch" since the Polish squad arrived last Monday for warm-up games against Italian clubs.

But Boniek, speaking to reporters, was philosophical about martial law.

"There's order at home and you can sleep safely. Of course there are difficulties today, but maybe they will make life easier tomorrow," he said.

Nevertheless, Boniek made no effort to hide his readiness for a spell in West European soccer if an offer came his way.

"I would like Roma, but they already have Falcao (Brazilian striker Roberto Falcao)... after Spain, I'll speak Italian," he said.

Italian first division clubs are allowed only one foreigner as a regular member of their teams, so Roma could not engage another overseas player.

Poland now have a few days to rub some of the rust off before they take the field against first division clubs Roma next Wednesday and Milan on Saturday. There are problems both in attack and defence.

"Boniek was getting to the ball too slowly, and so was (full back) Zmuda," Bearzot told reporters after the Modena game.



Mary Decker breaking the women's mile record

Mary Decker lowers mile record

NEW YORK (R) — American Mary Decker lowered her own world indoor best time for the women's mile by more than three seconds and Americans Candy Young and Stephanie Hightower shared a world record while running a dead-heat in the women's 60 yard hurdles at the Millrose Games here Friday night.

A capacity Madison Square Garden crowd of 18,293 saw Decker run one of the greatest races of her career, leaving the rest of the field far back as she hit the tape in four minutes 21.47 seconds. That broke the mark of 4:24.60 she set in Los Angeles three weeks ago.

Young and Hightower were both clocked in 7.38 seconds, with the photo-finish camera failing to separate them.

The previous record of 7.47 seconds was also held by both Hightower and Young. Hightower set it at the Millrose Games in 1980 and Young equalled it two weeks ago in Dallas, Texas.

Mottram upsets Teltscher

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — Buster Mottram of Britain described his performance as nearly perfect after beating second-seeded American Eliot Teltscher 6-3, 6-1 Friday in the quarter finals of the \$225,000 U.S. indoor tennis championships.

Mottram, ranked 61st in the world, will face either Johan Kriek of South Africa or American Vitas Gerulaitis in the semifinals.

"Everything has fallen together beautifully this week," Mottram said. "I couldn't hit the ball any better."

In the other semi-final, defending champion Gene Mayer, seeded third, will face the winner of the quarter final between top-seeded John McEnroe and seventh-seeded Roscoe Tanner.

Teltscher, ranked seventh in the world, became unsettled in the second set after disputes with the umpire, and on five occasions appeared to hit the ball at Mottram.

"He went for a quick K.O.," Mottram said. "It could be a clever play if you're far behind."

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Play gets bunched up at Victorian Open

MELBOURNE (A.P.) — Any one of seven players—and perhaps even nine—could be standing on the winners' dais at Metropolitan here late Sunday to receive the \$18,000 winners cheque for the Victorian Golf Open.

This was the position after a day of sensational golf on Saturday when the lead alternated between four players in dramatic fashion and still remains undecided.

American celebrity player Lee Trevino (73) and local idol Bob Shearer (71) will hit-off for the final round as joint leaders, five under the card on 211.

Trevino's earlier rounds were 70, 68 and Shearer 69, 71.

While Trevino and Shearer just have the edge on the others it could be left to a player like Blonder Queenslander Greg Norman to cut loose over the final 18 holes and tip out every-one.

Trevino, Canadian Jerry Anderson, young Melbourne pro-

fessional Michael Clayton and title holder Bill Dunk all held pride of place at the head of the field at some stage.

But in the final wrap-up it was Dunk who was the big loser on the day and he needs almost a super human effort Sunday to go anywhere near salvaging his title.

At one stage Dunk was eight under the card but by the time he walked off the final hole he was well down the list.

In contrast Bob Shearer had five birdies on Saturday to make a total of 11 in the last two rounds.

He overcame a number of difficulties including being in the trees at the seventh for a double bogey.

"I got my double bogey over early," he quipped later referring to that hole.

However he was non-committal about what he thought he could shoot in the final 18 but simply said "I'll break 80".

Liverpool crashes in F.A. Cup 5th round

LONDON (R) — The English Football Association (F.A.) Cup has a history of providing shock results. But Saturday's stunning defeat of Liverpool and Ipswich by second division opponents stands comparison with anything in the past 101 years of the competition.

European Champions Liverpool, unbeaten away from home since September, crashed 2-0 at Chelsea while Ipswich suffered a humiliating 2-1 defeat at Shrewsbury, currently languishing in 17th place in Division Two.

Liverpool, so dominant in recent weeks, were always struggling after falling behind to an eighth minute goal from Chelsea winger Peter Rhoades-Brown. Their misery was complete when Colin Lee added the second six minutes from time.

Ipswich, who have been in faltering form this season due to a cruel run of injuries, were stunned by early goals from Steve Cross and Jake King in the 14th and 23rd minutes. South African Mick D'Avray pulled one back near the end but it came too late to save Ipswich from a depressing journey home.

Only three first division sides survived to reach the last eight. They were holders Tottenham, who beat Aston Villa 1-0, West Bromwich, 1-0 winners over Norwich, and Coventry who crushed third division Oxford 4-0.

In contrast, five second division clubs will go into Monday's sixth round draw. Shrewsbury and Chelsea will be joined by Leicester, Queen's Park Rangers and either Crystal Palace or Orient, who drew 0-0.

Leicester, conquerors of first division leaders Southampton in the last round, but paid to the hopes of fellow-second division giant-killers Watford with a 2-0 victory. Watford had previously beaten Manchester United and West Ham.

Liverpool, harbouring ambitions of a unique haul of the major honours—League Title, F.A. League and European

Cups—have good reason to call Chelsea their "jinx" team because four years ago, an equally impressive side was crushed 4-2 in a third round tie.

Tottenham, who meet Liverpool in the League Cup final in March, stayed on course for a second Wembley appearance with a hard-fought win over Villa. Marc Falco was their goal-hero, bulletheaded home a header in the 34th minute.

There was further bad news for both Liverpool and Ipswich in the League when their main championship rivals all grabbed three points.

Leaders Southampton swept past once-mighty Nottingham Forest 2-0 with goals from England captain Kevin Keegan, his 21st of the season, and former international striker Mike Channon.

Southampton now have 47 points, two more than Manchester

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
©1981 by Chicago Tribune

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K6 ♥K1087 ♦74 ♣Q9832
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♥ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠762 ♥83 ♦73 ♣AQ10972
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ10873 ♥AJ7 ♦J5 ♣762
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q9 ♥AQ ♦AKQ1093 ♣J98
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Pass Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8843 ♥8 ♦63 ♣QJ9865
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
3 ♣ Double ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9 ♥AQ87 ♦K9 ♣AK10852
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Tuesday.

Podborski extends his ski lead

GARMISCH, West Germany (R) — Steve Podborski of Canada won the last World Cup downhill event of the European season here Saturday to extend his lead in the overall standings.

Podborski, who won here last year, clocked one minute 50.52 seconds to beat the silver and gold medalists of last week's World Championships in Schladming, Austria, into second and third places.

Conradin Cathomen of Switzerland finished second in 1:50.81 and Harti Weirather, the newly-crowned Austrian world champion, was third in 1:50.94.

Weirather, starting third Saturday, looked likely to repeat his Schladming victory as he set the pace on the 3,320-metre Pisté with its 920-metre drop.

But Podborski, a distant ninth in Schladming, drew on all his power to outspeed the Austrian whose time as later also bettered by Cathomen.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A well-reputed transportation company has the following positions vacant:

— **DATA PROCESSING/ SYSTEMS ANALYST:** Preference for this job will be given to new graduates of USA universities.

— **MALE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** With a minimum of 10 years' experience.

— **SPARE PARTS MANAGER:** With a minimum experience of 10 years.

Candidates for above jobs are requested to mail bio-data, full address and telephone number to:

The Manager
P.O. Box 866
Amman, Jordan.

Candidates chosen for interviews will be informed between Feb. 26 and 28, 1982.

CONSTRUCTION PLANT SALE

Due to contract completion, KIER INTERNATIONAL LTD have the following construction plant for sale:

- 2 no. 250 C.F.M compressors
- 2 no. Sykes UV 150 HP pumps
- 2 no. Diesel bar benders
- 2 no. Diesel bar cutters
- 2 no. Benford 21 14 concrete mixers
- 1 no. Benford concrete dumper
- 1 no. Drillmaster A24 drill, including soil investigation equipment.

- 1 no. 50-tonne cement silo
- 1 no. Bomag 90 pedestrian vibrating roller
- 2 no. Welding transformers
- 1 no. Babcock 1174 GT tower crane
- 1 no. Mercedes 2,000-gallon diesel tanker
- 1 no. Mercedes 5,000-gallon water tanker

Various hand tools, both compressed-air driven and electric.

Above all duty unpaid.
Also for sale, duty paid:

- 1 no. Mazda 929 L Estate car Dec. 1979
- 1 no. Datsun 1800 pickup Jan. 1980
- 2 no. Ingersoll Rand plate compactor.

For further details, ring Aqaba (04) 5748, or telex 62253 KIERAQ JO.

Americans take top two spots in downhill skiing

AROSA, Switzerland (A.P.) — Holly Flanders became the woman to beat on the World Cup downhill circuit, as she raced to a win Saturday, edging fellow American Cindy Nelson in what their head coach said was an unprecedented one-two U.S. finish.

The win moved Flanders, 24, into top spot in the World Cup downhill rankings. With 84 points, she is five points ahead of second-ranked Marie Cecile Gros-Gaudenier, who placed fifth in Saturday's race.

Taking advantage of near-perfect conditions on a crisp, sunny day, Flanders, who started fourth took the 2,460-metre course in 1:36.52. Nelson, the number-10 starter was clocked in 1:36.80.

Switzerland's Maria Waliser, 18, was third with a time of 1:36.94.

Canada's Gerry Sorensen, who won the world alpine skiing championships Feb. 4, at Haus, Austria, finished a disappointing eighth, but remained in contention for the World Cup downhill leadership at third place, 10 points behind Flanders.

Flanders, jubilant after her second World Cup victory this season said she "was up for this race," adding: "I wanted to show I can still ski well."

"Fantastic," commented the head U.S. women's coach, Michel Rudigoz, adding he believed the one-two finish by two Americans was a first in women's downhill World Cup skiing.

ISF official arrives in Taiwan for talks on softball tourney

TAOYUAN, Taiwan (A.P.) — International Softball Federation (ISF) Secretary General Don Porter arrived here Saturday for discussions with Taiwan's sports officials on the fifth World Women's Softball Tournament scheduled to be held in Taipei July 1-12.

He came in the wake of oews reports in Taipei that Taiwan may relinquish its right to host the July meet to avoid "political and peace overtures from Peking." Taiwan first offered to host the fifth championships in 1979 before China was admitted as an ISF member in 1981.

If China participates, it would be the first case of a Chinese team playing in Taiwan, seat of the rival nationalist Chinese government, since the 1949 communist takeover on the Mainland.

Porter said upon his arrival he

would discuss with Ho Ming-Chang, President of Taiwan's Chinese-Taipei Softball Association, and other sports officials "in the next couple of days" on plans and arrangement for the July meet.

He was met at the airport by Ho and Li Yuen, Secretary General of the Softball Association of Taiwan.

When asked about Peking's intention to participate, Porter told reporters most of ISF members, including China, have expressed their plans to take part in the Taipei tourney, adding that all ISF members "must be invited."

China already has said it will play in the Taipei tournament. Government officials on Taiwan so far have declined to say whether a mainland Chinese team

would be invited to come.

Porter said he is optimistic that the forthcoming championships will be held in Taipei as scheduled. He did not elaborate.

Porter, when asked if China really wants to play in Taipei even if nationalist China flies its national flag and plays its anthem, said it is "part of the ISF's policy" for the host country to fly its flag and play the music.

He declined to comment on the possible consequences if Taiwan refuses to invite mainland China.

Taiwan has ruled out all government contacts with Peking, saying China's overtures for peaceful reunification and its recent "softball diplomacy" as part of its "united front campaign" are attempts to subjugate the Chinese on Taiwan under communism.

Feb. 14

WHO'S YOUR VALENTINE?

Bring them and join us for our very special VALENTINE'S PARTY TONITE!

The Venue: Cavern Club Disco

Fabulous prizes to be won—a fun evening full of surprises

DON'T MISS IT!!

Cover charge: JD 2,000 per person (Couples & mixed parties preferred)

Time: 9.00 p.m. onwards.

Reservations: Tel. 813800

Feb. 14

Valentine's Day is for all the family!

Join us and enjoy our very special buffet luncheon at the coffee shop... A special treat for a special day.

Time: 12:30 p.m. onwards

Adults: JD 4,000

Children: JD 2,000

Reservations: 813800

سكس امة اهل

FEATURES

Concorde struggles to stay in the air

By Gilbert Sedhon
Reuters

PARIS — Concorde, the supersonic jet that is a status symbol to the expensive account traveller and an expensive headache to French and British taxpayers, is to be taken off its South American run because of costs.

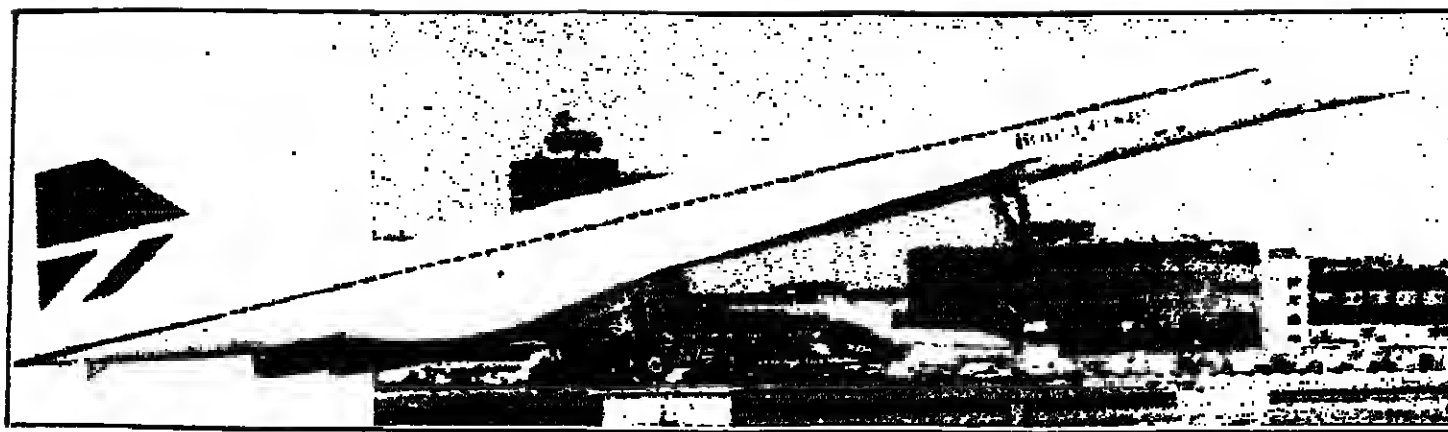
Air France is dropping its South American Concorde routes on April 1 after losing 100 million francs (\$17.2 million) last year on its supersonic flights to Brazil and Venezuela.

The Socialist French government, unable to hide its discomfort with the heavy subsidies needed to keep the luxury Concorde service aloft, ordered the state-owned airline to end the once-weekly trip to Caracas and twice-weekly flights to Rio de Janeiro.

The decision was the latest setback for the needle-nosed plane that was once hailed as the start of a new era in supersonic travel but it now struggling just to stay airborne.

The French and British governments, which launched the joint Concorde project in 1962, have said they plan to make a final decision on the plane's future early this year.

Despite a lavish sales campaign, Air France and state-owned British Airways are the only buyers of



The Anglo-French Concorde, once hailed as a new era in jet flight, received lukewarm reception from the airline industry

the plane, which has been a financial loser from the start. They each own seven.

London and Paris have stepped up efforts to trim their losses from Concorde operations, but many aviation experts question whether the plane will still be flying at twice the speed of sound in another five years.

President Francois Mitterrand let slip last summer that the Concorde programme might need to be reconsidered, but the French establishment quickly closed ranks to defend one of the country's best examples of technological achievement and he backed away.

His apparent belief that Concorde was a rich man's toy unworthy of being subsidised by a Socialist state has succumbed to the view that the plane is a magnificent achievement of French design and should continue its subsidised life, at least for the moment.

France and Britain have joined in a programme to reduce the uneconomic fuel consumption of the Concorde's Rolls-Royce engines by modifying the airframe as well as changes in day-to-day handling to boost reliability.

A normal Concorde burns up to 82 tonnes of jet fuel flying from Paris to New York at a cost of about \$28,000. The airframe refinements, already carried out on five of the seven Air France Concorde, are aimed at cutting one to 1.5 tonnes of fuel needed for each transatlantic flight.

The plane, in commercial service for the past six years after the

two countries spent three billion dollars to develop it, is still a drain on the taxpayer, although British Airways is hoping to turn a small profit this year.

Air France calculates that every time one of its planes climbs into the skies, it costs the taxpayer 4,800 francs (\$850) to make up the difference between the price of a ticket and the cost of the flight for each passenger on the 100-seat aircraft.

And breaking even is a long way off. Air France said it must be able to fill the sleek plane with 65 to 70 passengers on each flight and every Concorde should fly at least 2,500 hours.

In comparison with the rest of the Air France fleet of conventional jets, Concorde use is low. It ranged from 1,595 to 2,063 hours in 1980 depending on whether all seven of its Concorde were counted or just those that were operational. Company officials said that for 1981, the range was 1,032 to 2,393 hours.

Air France failed to attract enough passengers to its Latin American service. Flights to Caracas were 35.2 per cent filled and to Rio de Janeiro 47.6 per cent last year, well under the break-even point.

But Air France business to the United States, even though it lost 70 million francs (\$11.4 million) last year, was far better, with at least 61 seats occupied on average. The airline carried a total of 67,119 passengers between Paris and New York in 1981, up 35 per cent from 1980.

A spokesman said that so far this year, the upward trend has continued.

Both Air France and British Airways now only fly their Concorde on the North Atlantic route, with British Airways last year dropping flights to Singapore via Bahrain.

Both airlines' Concorde fly mainly to New York, the key destination for passengers, with British Airways providing a lone direct service to Washington.

Air France ended its direct Washington service and now funnels flights through New York, routing two flights weekly into Washington and two to Mexico City. British Airways abandoned an agreement with Braniff Airways to send planes landing in Washington on to Dallas at subsonic speeds.

Using different ways to measure costs, the amounts lost on the Concorde service are hard to determine accurately, although both concede operating deficits run into millions of dollars a year, with no chance of ever recovering development costs.

While it might be a hit with film

stars and businessmen with generous expense accounts, Concorde is a burden on taxpayers and an easy target for politicians on both sides of the Channel.

With little economic justification for continuing its existence, the strongest arguments involve national pride.

President Mitterrand's brother Jacques, chairman of the Aerospace Company which jointly developed Concorde along with British Aerospace, provided the rationale for Concorde:

"Concorde has been and perhaps still is our best technological window," he said. "Our international position as rivals to Boeing and other American aircraft manufacturers is largely due to the Concorde boost and the falouts we are reaping today and will continue to reap tomorrow."

But harking in the glow of the Concorde to help sell the European Airbus, the main European-produced commercial airliner, has proved an expensive business for two governments that are having doubts about its continued value.

Copenhagen's round tower looks for new man for top job

BY Ole Juus
The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN — The apartment that goes with the job has a pleasant view of Copenhagen. But there are drawbacks.

For one thing, the tenant must learn to ignore thousands of people clomping around on his roof. And some might find it less than appealing that a dash to the corner grocery means a 182-metre journey down, and then back up, a spiral rampart.

Nonetheless, more than 200 applicants are eager to move in and become resident janitor at Copenhagen's 340-year-old round tower — Rundetaarn in Danish — rising 30 metres over the heart of the city and one of its major tourist attractions.

At 69, Poul Soerensen has given notice that after 14 years, he and his wife Frethe are retiring from the Rundetaarn job. So somebody else will have to sell tickets to 240,000 visitors a year, wash and sweep the 4½-metre-wide brick spiral rampart once a week and battle graffiti on the whitewashed walls.

The reward is the unique, rent-free four-room apartment high above the streets. On a clear day, the tenant can see as far away as Sweden across the Oeresund Strait. There is also an annual salary of 120,000 kroner — \$15,800.

Even so, the board of the round tower — a self-governing institution — was astounded when 234 people of all ages and many professions applied for the job as guardian of the extraordinary building erected in 1642 by King Christian IV. The number is three times as many as applied when Mr. Soerensen was chosen in 1968.

Board chairman Inge Reimer Jensen attributed the interest to "the general economic squeeze, the housing shortage and excitement at the idea of living up there, high above the rest of us."

Christian IV, a great builder and warrior, designed the tower as an astronomical observatory adjacent to the Trinity Church, completed a few years later.

Mr. Soerensen says the apa-

artment, just below the observatory and a public observation balcony ringing the dome, is a wonderful place. His first act every morning for 14 years, he said, has been to tour its six large windows set in 5-foot-thick walls, each commanding a spectacular view.

But he also has some warnings for his successor.

"It's not easy to furnish rooms with a floor-to-ceiling height of 12 feet and with nothing but curving walls," he said. "I'll never forget the sweat of the men who came to fit the wall-to-wall carpeting."

It's also rather noisy with all those people on the platform over your head, and you can't forget those who, because of some obscure urge, try to force open our front door just because it's there."

The dome once was the observatory of Ole Roemer, the Danish astronomer who in 1776 was the first to measure the speed of light. Stargazers still are welcome during the winter season to scan the evening sky through the telescopes of the old observatory.

But everyone has to come on foot. This precludes a repeat of a performance by Czar Peter the Great of Russia during a visit to Denmark in 1716. Fascinated by the rampart, Peter won a wager that he could make it all the way up and down on horseback.

According to Mr. Soerensen's calculations, the shortest way — the inside track — up or down the rampart is 83 metres. The longest, against the outer wall, is 204 metres.

"I can still make it up the longest way in 5 or 6 minutes," he said.

Mr. Soerensen devised his own tactic in the never-ending battle against graffiti. His method is much admired. For many years, Mr. Soerensen says, he has been rejecting repeated job offers from a gentleman purportedly representing the Vatican.

"It seems they have a serious problem of graffiti on a spiral staircase in St. Peter's basilica, but it's not certain my method would work there," Mr. Soerensen said. "Anyway, I understand that no apartment goes with that job."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUDOO
OUSIP
NOOPUC
MUSSIE



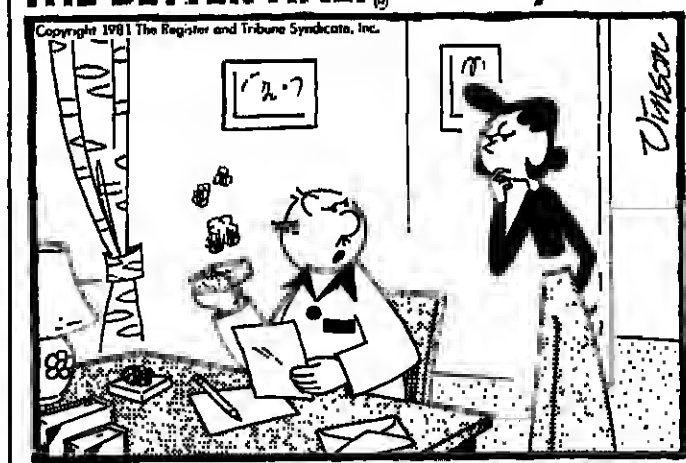
WHAT A LADLE IS.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUEDE GUESS CANOPY PALLID
Answer: Did henchmen carry out such sentence?—SUSPENDED ONES

THE BETTER HALF

By Vinson

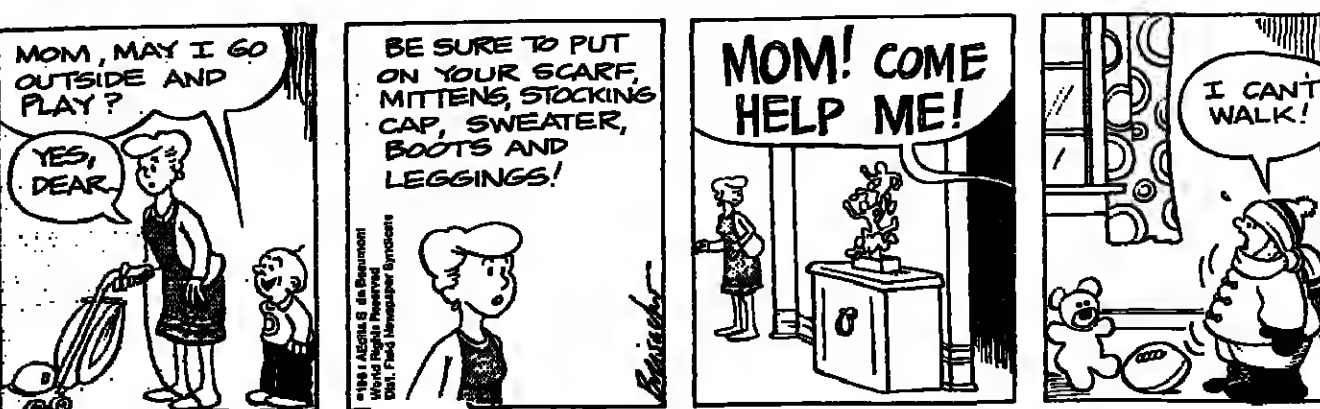


"There aren't any words in the English language to express my gratitude for yogurt culture."

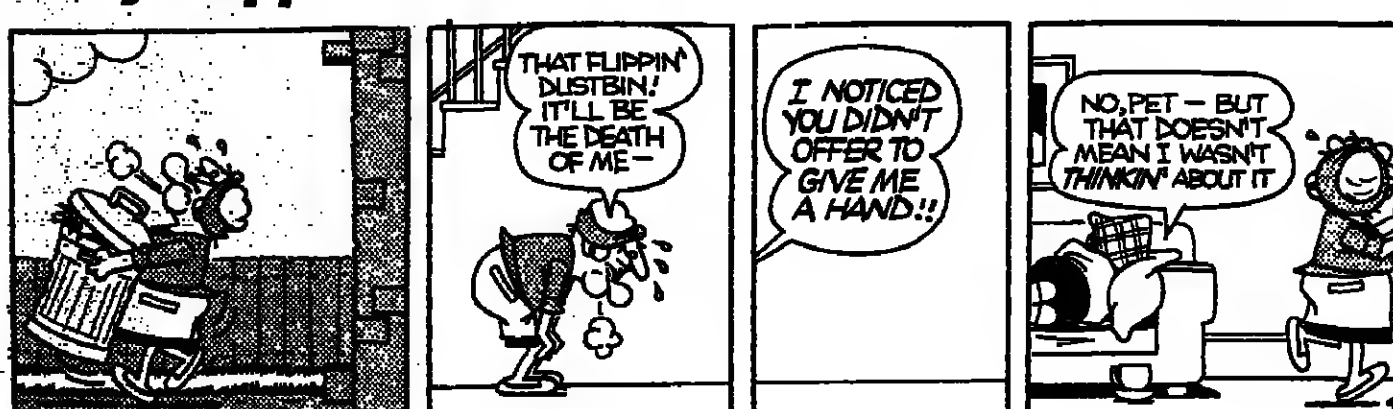
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Alhambra lions' fountain to be put inside museum

MADRID (R) — The lion's fountain at Granada's Alhambra palace, a showpiece of Islamic art and one of the most photographed beauty spots in the world, will be removed and placed in a museum in early 1983 due to its deterioration, a Spanish official said.

Javier tussell, director-general of fine arts, said that the 14th-century fountain would be taken from the lion's courtyard and placed in the Hispano-Muslim Art Museum sited within the Alhambra.

He said a replica was being prepared for the courtyard. The fountain, surrounded by 12 white marble lions, is regarded as a masterpiece of Islamic sculpture. An Arabic poem engraved around its sides is becoming illegible and the lions are also damaged.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 14, 1982

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to study your environment and to make plans for improvement. The most tranquil time is early in the day. Your good judgment can be called upon later.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make worthwhile plans for the days ahead. Conditions are not favorable in the afternoon so be alert at this time.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to take care of accumulated tasks and improve your surroundings. Take needed health treatments.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make plans with friends and relatives for the recreational activities you want to engage in the future. Count the cost.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are able to engage in civic affairs today and gain praise from others. Express true happiness.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) The morning is the best time for meditation. Later get together with good friends. Make the right preparations for the new week.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are able to make plans now that could give you more abundance in the future. Follow the advice of a successful person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get together with family members and plan the future wisely. The social side of life is best in the afternoon and evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Attend the services of your choice early in the day. Accept a worthwhile invitation in the evening. Be wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good time to get together with friends and relatives and discuss mutual aims. Get out of that worrying mood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Let family members know that you have their best interests at heart. Engage in hobby in the afternoon. Relax tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have fine progressive ideas now that should be expressed to others. A new acquaintance can be helpful to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have fine hunches during the day and can see through any pretenses. Come to a better understanding with loved one.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... be or she will have ideas of a progressive nature and can become very successful provided you give encouragement early in life. A fine religious training can be the guidepost throughout life. Little interest in sports here.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword

by Merle West

ACROSS	27 Act as	53 Precise	28 Turgenev
1 La Douce	31 Case	57 Secondhand	29 Challenge
5 Android	34 Effrontery	59 Go easy	30 Termini
10 Pony up	36 Forefront	61 New York	31 Burn
14 Convene	37 Hallowed	62 Delhydrates	32 Function
15 Disintegrate	38 Debt chit	63 Top-notch	33 Guinness
16 Agitate	39 Chalcedony	64 Coin drop	35 Caviar
17 Besome less	40 Pub quaff	65 Noncom	36 source
18 belligerent	41 Colorado	66 Chard	39 Black Hawk
20 Whole	43 Highway		41 Februa's
21 Preliminary	44 Abjures		42 predecessor
cost	46 Heroic		43 Leaves high
22 Bandleader	48 Debussy		44 Napery
Brown	49 subject		45 Charm to
23 Seaweed	50 port		46 protect
25 Pitcher's	51 Typewriter		47 Study
26 Stalk	52 button		48 Valhalla
			49 gods
			50 Western
			51 resort lake
			52 Coeur d'
			53 Idaho
			54 Hem In
			55 Gibbons
			56 Ringlet
			57 Commercial
			58 averted
			59 Japanese
			60 Buddhist
			61 temple
			62 Strike-
			63 breaker
			64 Chibbage
			65 pin

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:				6 Acapulco gold	49 Vallarta goods
KAYE	ABUTS	NOLO		7 Sully slip-up	50 Westminster to
ELEC	SALEP	ULTRA		8 Pinder output	51 Cœur d'Idaho
NEAR	ESTATE	PITES		9 Canopies	52 Hem In
	GUSTS	OPPORT		10 Kitchens	53 Gibbons
URSULINE	SEBILLY			11 Hoses	54 Ringlet
WITE	ULTRA	RAE		12 Hymnallst	55 Emma-gawd
BAR	QUILA	SAVA		13 Ephraim	
	RAE	OP		14 Hair dye	56 Japanese
RAWES	ROSARIES			15 Besidee	Buddhist's
	NEE	STOLE		16 In a huff	temple
EMBASSY	STOLE	GOOD		17 Takes on	58 Strike- breaker
THIR	EXTOTALER			18	24
THIR	LENER			25 Arken	
URAL	DISCS	OSLO			

WORLD

Pope addresses Nigerian Christians

John Paul condemns polygamy, divorce, contraception, abortion

LAGOS (R) — Pope John Paul, in an address to Nigerian Christians, Saturday spoke out against polygamy and called divorce, contraception and abortion the modern enemies of the family.

Speaking to hundreds of thousands of people at an open-air mass at Onitsha in eastern Nigeria, the 61-year-old pontiff said Nigerian families "have so many positive and praiseworthy values, based on your family traditions."

"You have strong family ties. Children are regarded as a blessing... the extended family system provides a loving environment for the care of orphans, the old and the poor."

But the Pope added: "There are however some shadows. Traditionally your culture did not exclude polygamy, even though most marriages were and

are monogamous... and the modern enemies of the family, the disturbing degradation of some fundamental values—divorce, contraception and abortion have not spared your country."

Six million out of Nigeria's 80 million people are Roman Catholics.

The Pope said that the fundamental form of life and love within the family lay in respect for each individual. "If you love your country, then love your family life."

After his address he baptised and confirmed people from all over the 31 dioceses of Nigeria.

Two Nigerian newspapers Friday defended polygamy.

An article in the Nigerian Observer said second wives should be allowed to receive religious sacraments. There were more women

than men in Nigeria, it argued, and "many young Catholic girls have turned pagan because they have no Catholic boys to marry them."

The Daily Times said second marriage was only a crime when the first wife disapproved.

The Pope was on the first full day of a four-nation African tour, his first foreign trip since surviving an assassination attempt last May.

The pontiff, who was greeted by Nigeria's Muslim President Shehu Shagari and Christian Vice-President Alex Ekwueme on his arrival Friday, is due to visit Benin, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon after his five-day visit to Nigeria, the most populous country in black Africa.

The Pope will fly on Sunday to Kaduna State in mainly Muslim northern Nigeria where in addition to ordaining some 80 priests he will meet Islamic community leaders.

Kaduna was the scene of disturbances among militant members of Nigeria's 30-million-strong Muslim community in 1979.

S. African blacks throng white leader's funeral

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Mourners Saturday turned the funeral of white trade unionist Neil Aggett into a demonstration against South Africa's stringent anti-terrorism laws under which security police, in whose custody he died, had detained him.

About 2,000 people, mainly blacks, packed Saint Mary's Cathedral in Central Johannesburg, and hundreds more stood in the courtyard and surrounding streets.

Dr. Aggett was found hanged in his cell last week, the first white to die while being held under the security laws, and his death has aroused a flood of national and international protest.

The results of a post mortem have not yet been released. Mourners carried posters saying: "Neil Aggett lived for his country—died in detention."

Dr. Aggett, a qualified physician, was the Transvaal provincial secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union, most of whose members are blacks.

Kremlin blasts Italian Communists

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin Saturday fiercely condemned the Italian Communist Party (PCI) and restated the Soviet Union's claim to supreme leadership in the world communist movement.

In its second attack on the Italian Communist Party in three weeks, the Soviet party newspaper Pravda accused it of flouting the principles of socialism and giving moral support to Moscow's enemies, especially in Poland.

"In this extremely responsible situation, which serves as an acid test of readiness to show true internationalism, the PCI has applied

'ideological sanctions' against (Polish Communists), regrettably on a level with the economic, political and propagandist sanctions brought by America and other NATO countries," Pravda said.

Pravda said Soviet Communists had tried again and again to discuss disagreements over Soviet domestic and foreign policy. But it did not identify such crucial disputes as Moscow's armed interventions in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and Afghanistan in 1979, as well as its human rights record.

"However, on the part of the PCI leadership and its press, we

have encountered again and again attacks against our party, statements and actions prejudicial to the cause of peace and socialism," it added.

Pravda echoed the charges in its first attack on the Italian Communists, published on Jan. 24, that PCI leaders were, by their conflict with the Soviet Party, harming peace and détente.

The Italian Communist Party's response, published in its daily l'Unita, was to defend its sympathies for the suspended Polish free trade union Solidarity.

Turkish generals permit restricted political debate on new constitution

ANKARA (A.P.) — Turkey's ruling generals, relaxing curbs on public political debate, have granted most former politicians the right to express their views on a new constitution to be drafted by a 160-member consultative assembly.

But a communique issued Friday by the national security council withheld the right to speak on the constitution from leaders and the executive committee members of the disbanded political parties. As a result, two former prime ministers, Social Democrat Bulent

Ecevit and conservative Suleyman Demirel, and their closest party associates, would have to keep silent on the nature of the new constitution.

The council, which comprises head of state Gen. Kenan Evren and four top generals, announced that other former politicians would be able to air their views on the new constitution when invited to do so by the consultative assembly and without reference to their former party affiliates.

The generals also allowed academic debate on the constitution by members of universities and some other associations, subject to permission by the martial law commands.

The communique did not clearly what kind of associations would be able to discuss the constitutional issues publicly.

A general ban was slapped last June on all political debate regarding the past, present and future of Turkey. It will remain in effect, with the exception of this limited discussion on the constitution, the communique said.

Dutch chopper lifts off 17 from sinking Greek vessel

FALMOUTH, England (R) — A Dutch navy helicopter Saturday lifted 17 men to safety from the sinking stern of a Greek tanker smashed in two in an Atlantic storm early Friday, coastguards said.

A search was still going on for 15 more crewmen from the 12,400-ton Victory, most of them feared drowned after their lifeboat capsized in violent seas.

The helicopter rescue began at first light, winching the men clear and shuttling them to the frigate van Speyk as the tossing 30 metre stump of the Victory settled lower and lower in the water.

A spokesman for coastguards coordinating the rescue from this southwest English port said one man was injured but the others were in fairly good condition after their 30-hour ordeal.

As soon as they were safe the four ships in the area, some 1300 kilometres southwest of England, joined two British Air Force pla-

nes in the hunt for other survivors. Searchers were concentrating on checking 17 lifeboats dropped in the area since the rescue began.

"We haven't given up hope. There is always a chance some of them might have reached the rafts," the spokesman said.

The Victory was bound for Liverpool, England, from Florida with a cargo of molasses when it broke up under the pounding of 15-metre waves. The spokesman said the crew list was not known but all 32 were thought to be Greek.

The van Speyk and another Dutch frigate, Callenberg, were leading the search, supported by two more vessels, Manchester Challenge and Dusseldorf Express, while a Soviet ship was heading for the scene to give assistance, he said.

The weather conditions had improved since Friday but search ships were still battling against seven-metre waves, he added.

Salvador rebel radio to air weapon recipes

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The clandestine radio station of El Salvador's leftist guerrillas said Friday it would soon start telling its listeners how to make homemade weapons in readiness for a popular uprising against the U.S.-backed government.

Radio Venceremos (we shall overcome) said it would include the instructions in its daily broadcasts.

No new major battles between government forces and the guerrillas were reported by either the radio or the armed forces, although skirmishes broke out Thursday near the northeastern town of San Francisco Gotera. There was no word of casualties.

They body of one victim of suspected political violence was found in the capital Friday, police said. They added that two electricity pylons had been blown up by guerrillas Thursday night.

In the eastern town of Zacatecoluca, six national guardsmen awaited the verdict of an examining judge who will decide if they are to face trial for the murders of four American women missionaries.

The missionaries, three nuns and a lay worker, were shot dead near Zacatecoluca in December 1980 shortly after leaving El Salvador's international airport.

Portugal claims 'subversive plot' foiled

LISBON (R) — Portugal's right-wing government said Saturday it had foiled a plot to subvert the country's democratic institutions in connection with Friday's Communist-organised general strike.

Security forces found "concrete plans to subvert democratic institutions" when arresting a small group of armed men in Lisbon Friday night, according to a statement issued after a cabinet meeting that lasted until early Thursday.

The statement said police had seized recorded proclamations to the nation that were ready for broadcasting when a car packed with grenades, explosive materials, submachine-guns and radio equipment was discovered in the centre of Lisbon. Three members of the group were arrested, but five others escaped.

"Portuguese workers today foiled an abortive Communist strike attempt and the government, with the help of the security forces, neutralised a terrorist attempt to subvert the structures of the democratic state," the cabinet statement said.

The government said it had detected systematic

jamming of official communications networks around the time the arrests were carried out.

The police had also found in the car details of "coordinated actions to be carried out in and around Lisbon," it added, but gave no further details.

The cabinet statement said trouble had been expected in case the general strike, called by Portugal's largest labour confederation, the Communist-dominated CGTP-Intersindical, failed, as the government had predicted it would.

Friday's stoppages, billed as the country's first-ever general strike, had little impact on everyday life with government departments, essential services, shops and offices working normally. Most factories, however, were closed.

At the beginning of 1980, a previous right-wing government accused a number of left-wing officers of having discussed the possibility of a coup.

Saturday, cabinet statement, however, is the nearest any government has come to denouncing a revolutionary threat to the regime since Portugal became a parliamentary democracy in 1976.

Soviets hope to bring proof of life on Mars

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is planning to send unmanned space laboratories to Mars in the hope of bringing back evidence of life on the planet's surface, a senior Soviet space researcher said in an interview published yesterday.

Yuri Zaitsev, head of the Academy of Science's Institute of Space Research, said long-term plans to examine the surface of Mars and bring back rock samples to Earth were under consideration.

He did not indicate how advanced the scheme was but said it would be very expensive and difficult to achieve without some form of international co-operation.

He told the newspaper moskovskaya Pravda that Soviet scientists had sustained some forms of life in atmospheric conditions closely simulating those on Mars, the Earth's closest neighbour after Venus.

Rats had survived only a few seconds, turtles more than six hours, frogs 25 hours and some insects for several weeks. But mushrooms, lichen and mosses adapted well and bacteria had no difficulties living in the "Martian" atmosphere, he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Mubarak to visit Oman February 16

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak will visit Oman Feb. 16 in his first trip to an Arab state since succeeding the late President Anwar Sadat, the presidency announced Saturday. The visit is viewed as the first concrete step by Mr. Mubarak to end Egypt's isolation in the Arab World brought about by Mr. Sadat's peace initiative with Israel.

Mr. Sadat visited Egypt's neighbour Sudan last March in the first step in this direction. The presidency announcement, quoted by Cairo Radio, did not specify the length of Mr. Mubarak's visit and this was taken as an indication it may be brief, perhaps one day.

Mr. Mubarak said in a statement that he was "in response to an invitation by Sultan Qaboos of Oman." Oman is one of the few Arab countries that did not sever ties with Cairo when Egypt signed its 1979 treaty with Israel.

President Mubarak told President Reagan during a visit to Washington earlier this month that more U.S. military aid, according to the official Egyptian Middle East News Agency.

South Yemen arrests alleged terrorists

ADEN (A.P.) — A group of terrorists sent by an unnamed foreign country to bomb economic mid-air installations in South Yemen have been arrested by security forces, a government statement said Saturday. The statement did not reveal the number or nationality of the alleged terrorists. But it said they will be tried soon on charges of infiltration across the border to try to sabotage economic installations, gasoline stations and oil reservoir and to carry out subversive activities in residential neighbourhoods.

Paris orders 2 attack submarines to guard Arabian Gulf oil route

PARIS (R) — France has ordered two attack submarines to join its Indian Ocean fleet guarding the oil route from the Gulf to Aden, the navy said Friday. The 1,043-tonne Daphne class submarine Venus is sailing from Brest, the Atlantic naval base, and the 1,725-tonne Agosta will leave from the Mediterranean base in Toulon. The two submarines are due to go through the Suez Canal on March 1. France has a large permanent military and naval presence in Djibouti and in the Indian Ocean. The French fleet in the Indian Ocean is composed of 23 warships, including four missile firing warships, 10 frigates, two destroyers, a tank-landing ship, a supply ship, an oil tanker and other support vessels, naval officials said.

E. German leaders receive Iranians

BERLIN (A.P.) — East German leaders met Saturday with visiting Iranian Deputy Premier Abdolkarim Ali Djasebi to discuss expanding economic ties between the two countries, the East German news agency ADN said. The talks were the third in a week that Mr. Djasebi has held with East bloc leaders amid speculation that Iran seeks rapprochement with the Soviet bloc. His previous talks were in Romania and Czechoslovakia, where Mr. Djasebi raised the possibility of Iran resuming work on an Iranian-Soviet-Czechoslovak natural gas pipeline agreed in 1976 and halted by the Iranians in 1979.

Iranian students launch hunger strike in Rome

ROME (R) — A group of 80 Iranian students Saturday began an indefinite hunger strike to protest against a crackdown by Iran's clergy-dominated government on the left-wing Mujahadeen and other opposition groups. The students, using Rome premises of the Italian Party of Proletarian Unity, said they wanted to highlight the contrast between present Iranian government policy and the 1979 revolution which overthrew the Shah. A similar hunger strike was begun Friday by 26 Iranians in Paris.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Chinese university bans jeans, mini-skirts

PEKING (R) — A Shanghai university has banned students from wearing jeans, mini-skirts and low-cut shirts because such clothes are "unorthodox," the China Daily newspaper said Saturday. The ban, similar to directives issued at other Chinese campuses, also bars men with long hair and moustaches. Girls with long hair must wrap it or wear it in braids, the newspaper said. Concern is frequently voiced by the Chinese media about the dangers of Western influences on young people.

Salesman nabbed for raping 13-year-old

NEW YORK (A.P.) — A 22-year-old clothing salesman has been charged with raping a 13-year-old girl from Calcutta, after abducting her from in front of her junior high school, police said. Police said Paul Schroeder dragged the child into his van Wednesday, raped and sodomised her and then threw her out onto the street. Mr. Schroeder was seized Friday by two police officers as he cruised the area in his van, police said.

Italian journalists stage news blackout

ROME (R) — A 24-hour strike by print and broadcast journalists Saturday deprived Italy of all news for the second time this month. A one-day stoppage which prevented the appearance of daily newspapers ended Saturday morning and then radio and television journalists promptly began their own 24-hour news blackout. The journalists are seeking to draw attention to their demands for better pay and conditions in negotiations with the employers for a new work contract. Print workers have also stopped work for two 24-hour periods so far this month, causing further hitches in the flow of information to a traditionally news-hungry country.

158 cars collide on Antwerp highway

ANTWERP, Belgium (A.P.) — At least five people were hospitalised with serious injuries after 158 cars collided on two fog-shrouded highways just east of Antwerp on Friday, police reported. A police spokesman said the E3 and E39 highways looked like "one large junk yard" after the mist had lifted. The fog has reduced visibility to less than 5 metres in some places, he added.

SALESMEN REQUIRED

A number of vacancies exist for experienced qualified salesmen to market a range of building and construction materials in Iraq.

Interested applicants please call Mr. John Martin at the Sheraton Hotel (tel. 60000) for an appointment.

Interviews will be arranged in Amman on Saturday and Monday, Feb. 13 and 15, at the Sheraton Hotel, Amman, Jordan.

موافقة وزارة العمل رقم م/٨٧/٢١١ تاريخ ١٩٨٢/٢/١٠

Lesotho turns to water for economic solutions

By Roy Laisley

LONDON — The tiny kingdom of Lesotho plans to sell some water to South Africa, the huge nation which surrounds it.

It is the massive scale of this deal, and the expensive hardware which will accompany it, which makes the scheme a touchy political issue — not only in southern Africa, but for the Western aid agencies which are being drawn into the project.

Lesotho, two-thirds rugged highlands, is one of the world's least-developed countries. It has all of the usual problems of the poor, small, land-locked nations for which the United Nations is trying to develop special programmes — and then some other problems all its own.

Poor soils mean it must import 40 per cent of its food. Its major export is wool from mountain sheep. Diamonds are being mined but at the cost of bringing in South African companies. There is tourism — but mainly South Africans crossing the border for the gambling which is illegal in their home country.

So Lesotho has decided to sell water, the one natural resource it has in great quantity, to the customer it can most easily reach. Plans call for the export of millions of cubic metres of the precious liquid by the mid-1990s to a South Africa desperately short of water.

The project, known as the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme, promises to transform the kingdom. The cost is conservatively put at \$1.5 billion — \$1,000 for each man, woman and child in a country where the average gross national product is less than \$350. Estimates of the scheme's earning potential put it as equal to the present entire revenue of the Les-

othan government.

The project is a construction company's dream, and many firms are already rubbing their hands in anticipation. The idea is technically simple: to divert the southward flow of Lesotho's Malibamatso and Sinqu rivers — which flow into the Orange River — northward into South Africa's Vaal River basin where the growing demand for water for farming and industry is expected to outstrip supply by 1994.

The four-phase scheme envisages five dams, three power stations, one pumping station, 120 kilometres of tunnels and over 220 kilometres of roads.

The idea has been around for 20 years or more. High-level discussions between Lesothan ministers — including Prime Minister

Leabua Jonathan — and their South African counterparts in 1980 and 1981 finally produced a basic agreement. Time is short, because work on a full-scale feasibility study must begin in the first half of this year if the 1994 completion date is to be achieved.

The EEC's European Development Fund is expected to provide in the next few months the \$5 million needed for the Lesothan side of the study. The World Bank has already said that it is willing to raise a consortium to finance the main project, which could begin in 1987.

But the scheme is likely to provide Lesotho with as many problems as it is supposed to solve. The project's sheer size has led consultants to advise insulating it from the rest of the national economy.

They have proposed that an independent semi-government company, whose books would be kept separate from the national finances, run the project.

Such a device is essential; drought or technical failure could result in huge expenses rather than huge payments by South Africa. Thus one year of dry weather could turn Lesotho's economy upside down.

The construction work will create about 2,000 Lesothan jobs, but only 200 workers will be needed after that. The scheme, therefore, will make no dent in the annual exodus of 100,000 or more Lesothans to find work in South Africa's mines.

Agriculture is unlikely to benefit either. Consultants calculate that some 11,000 hectares will be flooded by the dams, but of this only just over 2,000 hectares are presently cultivated. Some sheep-grazing lands will be inundated.

To prevent the reservoirs silting from soil erosion, some farming and mining activities will have to be curtailed. And the scheme is unlikely to increase irrigation, which is needed not in the mountainous northwest but in the low-land southwest. There farmers will be best served by small local schemes.

Thus, the Lesotho Highlands Water Schemewill be like most mining ventures in developing countries: A tiny enclave isolated, in this case very deliberately, from the rest of the economy.

The EEC has refused to enter into any joint financing with South Africa. But under the present understanding between the republic's department of water affairs and Lesotho's ministry of water, energy and mining, South Africa's consultants for its part of the fea-

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